Visitor arrivals up 268% in October. PAGE 2
Annual Polar Bear Swim event begins Dec. 21. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

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Leaked list fans election enmity

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

With the runoff election just two days away, the friction between the Palacios-Apatang and Torres-Sablan camps is becoming even more heated following a document leak insinuating that Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang have prematurely chosen their Cabinet members, promising jobs to their supporters.

A document showing a lineup of potential hires in a new Arnold and Dave administration was leaked on various social media platforms yesterday, yet both camps insist they are not in any way connected to the document or its subsequent leak.

See LEAKED on Page 4

'We haven't promised jobs to anyone'

Apatang

Sablan

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

A document was recently leaked on various social media platforms proposing a list of Cabinet members for an Arnold I. Palacios-David M. Apatang administration. Following the leak, the second half of the tandem, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, assures the community that no jobs have been promised.

The leaked document, titled "Cabinet (discussed and proposed)," purports to show the potential makeup of a Palacios Cabinet:

- Chief of Staff, Clyde Norita;
- Secretary of Finance, Jose Mafnas;
- Secretary of Labor, Priscilla Iakopo;

See JOBS on Page 4

House committees also subpoena BOG, others

Atalig

Deleon Guerrero

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two House of Representatives committees jointly agreed yesterday afternoon to include the Bank of Guam and several persons in the subpoena to compel them to produce records and testify related to the Torres' administration's Building Optimism,

See HOUSE on Page 4

Krevoy elaborates on future plans in CNMI

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

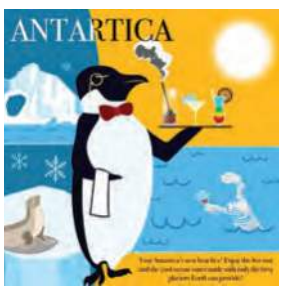
Dozens of students from the Northern Marianas College and high schools, along with film enthusiasts, and other members of the public, flocked to a meet-and-greet with Hollywood movie producer Brad Krevoy last Monday night at the Hafa Adai Roasting Company in the T-Galleria, during which those in attendance had

See KREVOY on Page 4

NMC

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Hollywood movie producer Brad Krevoy, center, along with dozens of Saipan's youth from the Northern Marianas College and different high schools, along with film enthusiasts, and other members of the community, take a photo after a meet-and-greet last night at the Hafa Adai Roasting Company in the T-Galleria. Attendees had a chance to ask Krevoy questions about the film industry and his plans to start a film studio on Saipan with the assistance of NMC and the CNMI Office of the Governor.

INSIDE



LOCAL
Claire Park, a student at Saipan International School, has won a Notable Award in an art contest.
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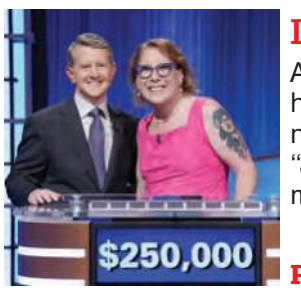
ASIA
An earthquake has killed at least 162 people on Indonesia's island of Java and injured more.
PAGE 21



LIFE & STYLE
Amy Schneider caps her big year by winning a hard-fought "Jeopardy!" tournament of champions.
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Local

Visitor arrivals up 268% in October

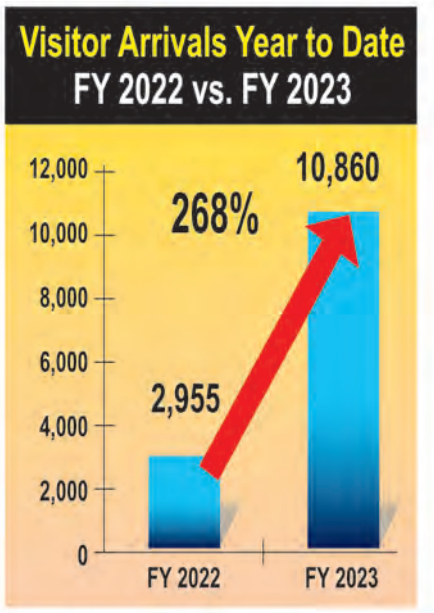
Visitor arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota grew 268% to 10,860 visitors in October 2022, compared to 2,955 visitors received in October 2021, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

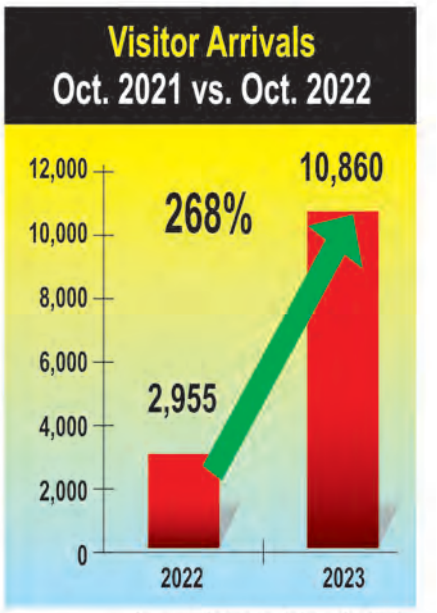
A total of 9,016 visitors arrived from South Korea in October 2022, compared to 2,023 visitors in October 2021 following the July 2021 implementation of the MVA's Tourism Resumption Investment Plan. The U.S. dollar remains strong against the Korean won, costing Korean visitors considerably more to purchase the same amount of service in the Marianas compared to a year ago. Airfares have also increased due to higher fuel surcharges.

The Marianas received 228 visitors from Japan in October 2022, compared to only four visitors in October 2021. Three weekly flights from Narita to Saipan are operated by United Airlines with incentives from the TRIP program. Japanese travel to U.S. destinations was dampened by the strong dollar. Japan is also offering generous incentives for domestic travel within Japan, including the additional Nationwide Travel Discount Program launched on Oct. 11. The program offers up to 40% in domestic travel discounts, making many consumers turn to domestic travel options. Other challenges in attracting visitors from Japan include high fuel surcharges, a low vaccination rate among children, and travel apprehension among active seniors over 60.

The Marianas also received 892 visitors from Guam, 490 visitors from the U.S., and a combined 234 additional visitors from all other destinations in October.

The MVA is looking to further expand TRIP to other source markets as more destinations ease travel restrictions and travel demand continues to increase worldwide. ***(MVA)***





Source: Marianas Visitors Authority

Arago's mausoleum to be unveiled at his first death anniversary

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

Commemorating his life and work, the mausoleum that was built for former honorary Philippine consul to the CNMI Glicerio Del Mundo Arago, known to many as "Eli," is expected to be officially unveiled on Nov. 24, 2022, in his home town in Batangas, the Philippines.

The mausoleum—a beautiful two-story memorial—was purposely set to be unveiled on the day of Arago's first death anniversary, and several members of his family are said to be travelling to Batangas in order to attend the event.

Arago's family members and friends in the CNMI will also be commemorating the late honorary consul's death anniversary during a Thanksgiving Mass at the Kristo Rai church, 8am this Thursday and will join in the offertory. Family and friends are also spreading word to those who may want to participate that they may bring with them non-perishable items for the offertory as a blessing to the less fortunate, just as Arago had done.

Arago

Many would describe Arago as extremely generous. "Consul Eli was known as very, very, generous. …Like, if anybody would ask for his help, he wouldn't even have a second thought about helping out," said former United Filipino Organization president and Philippine Honorary Consulate volunteer Annamae Adaza.

Adaza said she had known him only as an acquaintance and it wasn't until 2015 when Arago was appointed honorary consul that she began working with him closely. She described Arago as fun, approachable, sociable, and generous. "There is no dull moment whenever you're with him. He knows a lot of things." She noted and laughed as she recalled how Arago was a bit of a fashionista himself, that it was sort of Arago's trademark to wear a shawl or scarf on many different occasions.

Arago had made Saipan his home some 35 years ago, and this is where he spent half of his life. For a time he worked directly with Tan Holdings Corp. as a senior vice president and a publisher for *Saipan Tribune*. He passed away on Nov. 24, 2021 after being medevaced to Guam.

Currently, no one has been appointed to fill his position as honorary consul, but Adaza said that she, alongside attorney Ariel Mariano, Ulysses Sabuco, and Mario Mayuga have been holding down the fort, as well as continuing their duties. "The CNMI will never be the same without him [Arago], especially the Filipino community here," she added.

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR DAVID MUNDO APATANG
ON EDUCATION DAY
On this occasion that celebrates the importance of education, let us always make our contribution towards educating our children because when you educate a child, you change not just their present but all their life for good.
HAPPY
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DAVID M. APATANG
MAYOR OF SAIPAN AND STAFF

Annual Polar Bear Swim event begins Dec. 21

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sung Chul Kim is presented with a polar bear trophy after recording 80 miles, making him the swimmer with the most recorded swim miles last year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chang Nam "Charles" Lee of Dolphin Club Saipan, recorded 40 miles.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Iek Hun Ahn, shown here with his wife, Bok Sun Hwang, was the first to record 40 miles last year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Myung Bong Cha and Ha Jin Jung pose with their plaques and figurines.

500 Sails invites the public to participate in the Polar Bear Swim event launching on Dec. 21, 2022.

The Polar Bear Swim event is an annual swimming challenge. The goal is for swimmers to record as many swim miles within the Saipan Lagoon as possible during winter—Dec. 21 through March 20. First-time participants under the age of 65 who swim at least 40 miles in that time frame will receive a commemorative marble plaque and polar bear figurine. Those who are 65 and over need only 25 miles in that same time frame to receive a plaque and polar bear. However, special recognition will be given to the first swimmer to reach 40 miles, as well as the participant who swims the most miles by the end of the event.

500 Sails executive director Peter Perez and project manager Andrew Roberto made the announcement after concluding the awards ceremony for the 2021 - 2022 Polar Bear Swim event. The swimmer with the most recorded swim miles last year was Sung Chul Kim, who recorded 80 miles. Iek Huyn Ahn was the first swimmer to reach 40 miles, and did so on Jan. 15, 2022, just four weeks into the competition.

The remaining "Polar Bears" for 2021 - 2022 are as follows: Gary de Guzman, Chong Nam "Charles" Lee, Bok Sun Hwang, Bobby Aguilar, Natalia Gvan, Bo Hwa Lee, Christina Lee, Ratsugui Min Sook, Henry Bautista, Myung Bong Cha, Ha Jin Jung, Kuen-Hee Han, Wania Leo, and Chang Wan Jang.

The Saipan iteration of the Polar Bear Swim event is modeled after an event of the same name hosted by the Dolphin Club of San Francisco. In that organization, the Polar Bear Swim event is hosted as an effort to encourage DCSF members to continue swimming even through the winter months, where temperatures in San Francisco Bay can reach below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Emma Perez, 500 Sails cofounder, is a former swim commissioner of DCSF and brought the first Saipan Polar Bear Swim event to life in 2013.

Swimmers can register for this year's Polar Bear Swim event by registering at any of 500 Sails' community programs at the Guma Sakman in Susupe, across Marianas High School. These include Dolphin Club morning swims from 6am to 7am Monday to Sunday; Saturday Sails from 9am to 2pm; the Sirena Project (swim lessons for women and teenage girls) from 10am to 11am Sundays; and Gamsun Project (lifeguard training) from 12:30pm to 1:30pm Sundays.

For more information, contact Roberto at (670) 323-7245 or aroberto@500sails.org. You may also reach out via Facebook or Instagram Messenger. Don't know how to swim? Free adult swimming lessons are available every Wednesday from 6am to 7am at the Guma Sakman. ***(500 Sails)***

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Democrat Frica Pangelinan throws support behind Torres-Sablan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Saipan senator Maria Frica T. Pangelinan, who has been a Democrat all her life, has thrown her support behind Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his running mate, Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (R-Saipan), of the Republican Party, for the Nov. 25 runoff election.

Pangelinan confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that she indeed wrote a letter about "Democrats' vision of Good Governance" that's being circulated on social media.

Pangelinan, in the letter addressed to the people of the Commonwealth, said she wrote it to share some insights into the Democratic Party, now that their gubernatorial bets, Reps. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) and Leila F. Staffler (D-Saipan), are no longer on the ballot.

Pangelinan

She said the Democratic Party stands for progress and equality for all. "As Democrats we believe in good governance. This involves planning, execution and commitment," Pangelinan said.

She said that people have seen many plans being executed all around the islands under the leadership of Torres that are consistent with the core values of the Democratic Party.

The former senator listed several projects and programs of the Torres administration that, according to her, benefitted CNMI residents and support economic activity.

Pangelinan said that Torres and Sablan are the "best option for the Marianas."

Pangelinan served as the first female senator in the CNMI Legislature. She is a current member of the Marianas Public Land Trust board.

Recently, Daniel Quitugua retired as Democratic Party chairman and announced his support to Torres-Sablan in the runoff election.

Sablan and Staffler, of the Democratic Party, landed third in the three-way gubernatorial race in the Nov. 8 general elections. Sablan and Staffler are now supporting Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and his running mate, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, of the unified independent team, for the runoff election.

KREVOY

From Page 1

a chance to ask him about his plans in the CNMI.

Along with Krevoy was his business partner, James Townsend, who is head of production at Motion Picture Corporation of America, Amy Krell, and David Anselmo, who operates his own studio in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada.

Also in attendance were Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, first lady Diann Torres, Sen. Vinnie Vinson Sablan (R-Saipan), NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, and members of the Associated Students of NMC.

Krevoy came to Saipan this week to formally announce his intention to develop a movie studio and to produce a minimum of 20 motion pictures over the next five years in the Marianas. These productions will not only create training for film school students and permanent jobs in the production industry, but will also promote tourism, the diversification of the local economy, and support additional jobs in the CNMI.

"The idea is, by making the movies here, you're all involved if you want to be involved. And for those of you that are not actors, or writers, or directors, or want to work on our crew, there's also lots of ways to learn about a movie once it's finished, and how to deliver the movie to a distributor," Krevoy said, adding that all their movies are distributed by major streaming platforms, including Netflix, Hulu, and Amazon Prime Video.

The goal, he said, is to build local capacity, "so that after the first year, as many people as possible…have a chance to learn. And by the second year, a chance to get promoted, so over a couple year period, it'll be all of you with your own crews."

Krevoy, who wants to make bigger comedies, said that they want to train at least two crews for the movies that they want to shoot here in the CNMI.

Raina Avelino, a Northern Marianas College student and a dancer from Studio 29:11, hopes that Krevoy's plans will bear fruit. "Maybe they're just talking, but I really hope it works out because…we're from a small island so it's very difficult to make a name for ourselves."

Richard Surynt, who owns the construction company, United Management International, said, "This is a huge opportunity… for the CNMI. I don't know if people realize how big a deal this is. I mean, we're just a little speck here and these people from Hollywood…are interested and

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

HOUSE

From Page 1

Opportunities, and Stability Together Program in a bid to find out, among other things, who have been awarded funds and those who have been denied or are still awaiting disposition.

During the continuation of the joint meeting by the Committee on Ways and Means and Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) offered a motion to add BOG to the list of subpoena recipients to obtain documents related to the administration of the BOOST Program and the role that the bank plays in the program.

Sablan also moved to amend the subpoena for the Department of Finance to include copies of all business license applications submitted, including pending applications, as well as copies of business licenses issued for all BOOST applicants from May 2022 to the present.

She also moved to issue subpoena to individuals so they could testify before the committees. These individuals are Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, Commerce Secretary Edward M. Deleon Guerrero, DOC director of Economic Development Jesus Taisague, chief of staff to the governor William Castro, Bank of Saipan president John Arroyo, BOS employee and BOOST Program administrator Karen Kalen, and BOG vice president/CNMI regional manager Merced "Marcie" Tomokane.

All seven JGO members present voted "yes" to the motions. They were chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), vice speaker Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan), and Reps. Sablan, Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), Richard T. Lizama (D-Saipan), and Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan).

All 10 Ways and Means Committee members present voted "yes." They were chair Manglona, and Reps. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan), Babauta, Vicente Camacho, Lizama, Propst, Sablan, Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Leila Staffler (D-Saipan), and Denita K. Yangetmai (D-Saipan). Two members were absent.

On Monday, the two committees jointly agreed to issue subpoena to four entities—Department of Finance, Department of Commerce, Office of the Governor, and BOS. The subpoena compels the entities to produce the BOOST Program records, including list of applicants who have been awarded and the amount awarded, and applicants who have been denied or still awaiting disposition.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

JOBS

From Page 1

■ Commissioner of Public Safety, James Deleon Guerrero;

■ Secretary of Public Works, Richard Lizama;

■ Secretary of Lands and Natural Resources, Pete Reyes;

■ Secretary of Public Lands, Ray Yumul;

■ Commissioner of Corrections, George Camacho;

■ Commissioner Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Steve Mesngon;

■ Special Assistant for Homeland Security, Delbert Pua;

■ Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Administrator, Danny Buniag;

■ Press Secretary, Leila Staffler;

■ Director Office of Planning and Development, Tina Sablan;

■ Secretary of Community and Cultural Affairs, Lauren Pangelinan;

■ Special Assistant Management and Budget, Franklin Babauta;

■ Zoning Administrator, Steve Woodruff or Dan Chase.

In addition to the list of hires, the document also stated that the salary offered to each individual must be at least $75,000 and the law would be amended as needed.

When asked about this, Apatang said he and Palacios have not promised jobs to anyone "That list is false, we never promised anyone anything. You know, some of those people on social media from the other side are always trying to penetrate and create confusion. To be clear, we never promised anyone a job," he said.

Apatang further stated that if he and Palacios were to announce a set of Cabinet members, the community would know and that it would be announced the right way.

"We don't know, and haven't decided on any Cabinet members. We can't do that, it's premature. I just want to remind the people of the CNMI not to believe everything the other camp is saying and the things that they put out on social media about us. If we were going to put out our chosen Cabinet members, the community would know it's real because we would do it the right way and it would come directly from us, AD," he said.

Apatang said the leaked document is just a means to create confusion in the community for the upcoming runoff election. He urges the community not to fall for it.

"A lot of the pages that are putting out information like this are fake; fake names releasing erroneous information in an attempt to create confusion in the community and within the AD team. But, we're not going to stand for this. Again, we never promised anyone anything," Apatang said.

LEAKED

From Page 1

Palacios immediately issued a press release yesterday, claiming that the document is fake and is a ploy by the opposing party to stir confusion and animosity within the community.

In response to the accusation, the Republican Party, through its president, Shayne Villanueva, issued a statement claiming that the accusation is false, adding that it is, in fact, the AD camp that is spreading reckless information. AD refers to the initials of the first names of Palacios and Apatang.

According to Palacios' statement, he is appalled by the GOP's act of fraudulently creating the document and leaking it to stir hate within the community.

"I am appalled at the level of nastiness Gov. Torres and the GOP will show as we head into the final days of the runoff election. To fraudulently create a document that shows names of supposed hires in an AD administration is low. It is meant to create confusion and animosity. Ralph, is there no limit to your desperation for power?" said Palacios.

He clarified that there is no list created nor discussed by the AD camp as to potential hires, and he believes that the document is just another one of his opponent's "deceitful" tactics.

"We have noticed that GOP trolls have been hard at work faking accounts, releasing fraudulent documents attributed to the AD camp, and have brought off-island bloggers to discredit Lt. Gov. Palacios. Our people can see through the governor's lies and deceit. After all we have endured it for over four years. All of these lies and distractions being perpetrated by the Torres-Sablan camp will not take away from the fact that Ralph is currently under federal investigation for alleged corruption and is locally charged for theft," Palacios said.

Meanwhile, in Villanueva's statement, he notes that, instead of just denying the document as true or false, Palacios went out of his way to blame Torres and to spread misinformation in the community.

"The AD camp has now accused Torres-Sablan and its supporters of creating a document circulating around social media. The AD camp can either defend the list or deny that they created it but the accusation that we had something to do with the list is both reckless and irresponsible. For over two years, the AD camp has spread much misinformation, deceit and lies about Torres-Sablan and have changed the many projects of success into a scheme of improper accusations. In a more recent event of vandalism to Torres-Sablan sign, we took the high road and did not blame the AD camp. Remarkably, many of the AD supporters even accused Torres-Sablan of vandalizing our own signs. This is absurd and ludicrous," he said.

Villanueva also claims that the AD camp and its supporters are notorious for using trolls and tabloids to misinform the public.

"The Palacios-Apatang camp and supporters have, in fact, used more trolls and tabloid newsmakers to misinform the general public of the accomplishments and successes of the party. Their whole campaign is built on hateful words, disrespect, and ugly tactics to separate our people of the CNMI," Villanueva said.

He pointed out that, in response to the list, Palacios goes off-tangent and once again raised the issue of Torres being charged with first class travel. "In doing so, he doesn't mention that he 100% traveled first class and many other employees. That he engaged in perjury when he testified before the JGO that he did not travel; travel documents were revealed in court that he and his wife traveled first class," Villanueva added.

He said the Torres-Sablan camp will continue to run its campaign based on accomplishments and will not be swayed by the opposition's tactics to distract them.

"The Torres-Sablan runs a campaign based on progress and accomplishments. We will not be distracted by the opponent's tactics and will continue to show that Torres-Sablan team will move our Commonwealth forward, not backward," he said.

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IT&E

Attao sees potential detrimental effects from BOOST funding

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Many people are applying for funding under the Building Optimism, Opportunities, and Stability Together, or BOOST Program, but House of Representatives Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) is concerned that many may not be aware of the potential detrimental effects this funding may have on the recipients.

In particular, Attao said these BOOST grants will only turn into grants if the beneficiary—whether a business, non-profit organization, or individual—complies with every single piece of the American Rescue Plan Act program that has been finalized by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Attao

"Failure to follow all the necessary documents in the future when the inspector general actually comes into the CNMI to look at all the monies that were brought in to the CNMI for the last five or six years—almost $2 billion—[could result in] a lot of our people…suffering down the road," he said.

Attao expressed alarm over the implementation of the BOOST Program during a joint meeting by the House Committee on Ways and Means and Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations in the House chamber Monday afternoon.

The BOOST Program is a project of the Office of the Governor and the Department of Commerce that aims to provide financial assistance to CNMI businesses and non-profit organizations. Bank of Saipan is the administering authority for the program.

Attao said the House majority is not against helping businesses or individuals.

"This is something that was brought up since the 21st Legislature when we first got the ARPA money negotiations in U.S. Congress when they started talking about the $200 million, $300 million, potential half a billion dollars that will be coming to the CNMI," he said.

He said they suggested to the administration reserving at a minimum $15 million that should be distributed to businesses in the CNMI. He said that money would have carried the CNMI in those tough times during the COVID-19 period. "They survived even though their businesses weren't making any money. At the very least they were circulating funds within our economy," Attao said.

He said the position of the House at the time was to reserve approximately $15 million so they can get them into the hands of small businesses.

"Allow them to run their businesses the way they see fit because they understand their businesses way better that we do. So that was the intent back then. Unfortunately, it never happened. That was before the BOOST program ever came about," the vice speaker said.

He said the BOOST Program was spoken about six months ago and that its distribution period now is "a little bit questionable."

Attao reiterated that his biggest concern in the next couple of years are the individuals and businesses that will potentially get these BOOST grants and the auditing by the inspector general.

He said that is biggest worry because these individuals and businesses will complain to the House for not helping them due to lack of information that is being distributed to the members of the community. Attao said it's a dangerous road that they are putting people in.

"Yeah, we're getting money into their pockets, getting money into their businesses now. But in a couple of years…how are we [going to] explain that…these were the steps that were supposed to be followed, but unfortunately you didn't follow it," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Attention CNMI Government Employees, Retirees and Surviving Spouses

It's Open Enrollment time

Open enrollment runs Monday, October 24 - Friday, December 09

Our goal is to provide you with access to the highest levels of care and support possible through our:

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Websites to help you choose a plan:

- Aetna International: **www.AetnaInternational.com/cnmi-ghli**
- CNMI Dept of Finance: **https://finance.gov.mp**
- Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.: **www.pacificains.com/ghlit**

Deliver your Form and any required documentation:

- Active employees: to your respective Agency or Department of Human Resources
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Open enrollment runs Monday, October 24 - Friday, December 09, 2022.

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7 child care providers undergo two health and safety trainings

Seven child care providers from two centers on Saipan attend two sessions on the required health and safety training topics at the Evergreen Learning Training Center in Chalan Kanoa last Nov. 12, 2022.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Seven child care providers from two centers on Saipan attended two sessions on a required health and safety training last Nov. 12, 2022, at the Evergreen Learning Training Center in Chalan Kanoa.

Both sessions on the prevention and control of infectious diseases including immunization, and storage of hazardous materials, plus appropriate disposal of bio-contaminants, was conducted by Evergreen Learning's quality care specialist Maricar I. Pena.

These trainings were made possible through funding from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Care, CNMI CCDF program under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

In the he first session, participants explored how infectious diseases are spread, handwashing policies and procedures for children and staff, and the differences between cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting.

The afternoon session on handling and storage of hazardous materials, and appropriate disposal of bio-contaminants, participants were able to identify hazards in the child care environment, explore why young children are vulnerable to these dangers, and the strategies for properly handling and storing hazardous materials.

The Child Care Reauthorization Act of 2014 requires that all child care providers funded by the Child Care Development Fund Program must complete preservice training requirements in 12 health and safety topic areas before they are allowed to be left alone to supervise young children. The training topics meet two out of the 12 required training. ***(PR)***

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Shell

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— William Arthur Ward
Paid for by the Committee to Elect Torres - Sablan, Zerlyn Taimanao, Treasurer

Thanksgiving is more than the festivities, it gives us time to ponder upon what lessons we learnt and how we can spread happiness around, to look back at all the great memories and good people who came into our lives. We appreciate you so much.

HAPPY
Thanksgiving

VINNIE F.
SABLAN
CANDIDATE FOR LT. GOVERNOR

RALPH DLG
TORRES
CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Torres - Sablan, Zerlyn Taimanao, Treasurer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

The House GOP needs to put its priorities in the right place

In the midterms, Republicans who focused on inflation, crime and other concrete problems made gains. Those who slung the slop of Trumpite invective and conspiracy theories, insisting the 2020 election was stolen, overwhelmingly remained stuck in the muck.

Yet since narrowly taking the House, Republicans under leader (and likely next speaker) Kevin McCarthy have not rolled out a five-point crime control agenda. Or a smart plan to slow inflation. Or a blueprint for fixing America's immigration system. Rather, out of the gate, the incoming leaders of the House Oversight and Judiciary committees are vowing to investigate President Joe Biden's son.

We hope they enjoy themselves. The people they represent sure won't appreciate two years of Benghazi-style hysterics.

Let's be clear. Hunter Biden had lucrative dealings with foreign firms; his laptop is not some right-wing fever dream. An NBC News analysis of his hard drive and other documents published in May revealed that from 2013 through 2018, he and his firm raked in about $11 million from work with a Ukrainian firm and a Chinese businessman since accused of wrongdoing.

Indeed, the president's son is now under investigation by the Delaware U.S. attorney—with prosecutors, led by Trump appointee David Weiss, purportedly weighing charging him with tax crimes and making a false statement regarding a gun purchase. In contrast to a predecessor who treated the Justice Department as a weapon to wield against his enemies, Joe Biden has said he will not interfere with the professionals as they mull what to do. Attorney General Merrick Garland made a similar pledge.

Not content with letting the wheels of justice turn, learning nothing from the first Trump impeachment, hyperventilating House Republicans are intent on smearing the son, and by association the father, in a transparent attempt to fire up the angriest slice of their base.

President Biden has signed into law a trillion-dollar infrastructure bill and an Inflation Adjustment Act with $500 billion in new spending and tax breaks. Here's a crazy idea: Maybe the House Oversight Committee could make it its highest priority to ... oversee that spending?

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Searching for a new age of leaders

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service*, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.*

Someday, history's chroniclers will label this November as the month when America's political elites and also America's just plain people of the left, center and right suddenly began trying to see beyond the horizon – urgently hoping to discover their next generation of leaders.

Looking right, we are seeing the Trumpers looking beyond Trump. Looking a bit to the left of them, we are seeing the Never Trumpers, Republicans who are still sane and patriotic; but now they are wondering if maybe they can settle for a little less. Maybe a new generation someone who is just a Not-Quite Trump, but merely nasty. Can we say yes to a Ron DeSantis (who once said of Dr. Anthony Fauci: "Someone needs to grab that little elf and chuck him across the Potomac") – and still look in our bathroom mirror?

We are seeing the "Fire Pelosi!" zealots celebrating the fact that Nancy Pelosi is no longer the House speaker. But as we see them plotting new ways of inflicting payback plus impeachment vengeance, it seems certain that their zealotry will spawn a Hire Pelosi next generation movement.

Now, looking further left, we see increasing numbers of Joe Biden supporters who don't want to insult their leader, but are also sneaking peeks ahead. They hope, with new urgency, they can discover their next generation of presidential quality leaders – ones who will have all the experience they need, but none of their baggage (a word that, appropriately, ends in "age").

And this past week, many Democrats and independents are worrying about something they saw on their news screens that has been little mentioned – but dare not be ignored. (And here I am getting into some journalism I don't like to report – because, as a young reporter, I got to know a young senator named Joe Biden quite well. Occasionally I rode with him on his nightly train commute to Wilmington, Delaware, just so we could talk. When he got off, I crossed the tracks and caught the next train home. But this week I saw some things I found troubling.)

President Biden's team had scheduled him on a globe-circling week of red-eye, nighttime flights to three back-to-back-to-back world summits. It was the sort of no-rest schedule President Richard Nixon, as a 56-year-old president, forbid his staff to schedule.)

Nov. 10: Biden, just days before turning 80, flew all night to Egypt. Nov. 11: He landed, addressed a global climate summit, then then flew all night to Cambodia. Nov. 12: He landed, spoke to the ASEAN summit.

Yup, Biden began by thanking his host: "I want to thank the Prime Minister of—for Colombia's leadership in the ASEAN—as ASEAN chair and for hosting all of us." Oh no, Mister Joe – it's Cambodia, not Colombia.

The New York Times dutifully reported the gaffe, but preceded it with this explanatory context: "It was his second overnight flight in two days, and though the president did not appear publicly in Phnom Penh until late afternoon, the travel seemed to be taking a toll."

But that also failed to tell readers the full story. Two days earlier, a fully rested Biden had made the same gaffe while talking to reporters on the South Lawn, before boarding his helicopter. He said he'd be flying to Egypt and "then heading over to Colombia and then—I mean, Cambodia. I was thinking—I'm thinking the Western Hemisphere. And then off to Indonesia."

Several days later, as Biden was in Bali, Indonesia at the G20 summit of leaders of the world's largest economies, I saw something on TV I'd never seen in decades of covering these summits. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, looking quite serious, pulled up a chair and sat just inches from Biden's left shoulder while the president was speaking. Blinken leaned in and seemed to be monitoring Biden's text. After that session, Biden's aides announced he was skipping the traditional gala dinner for unspecified reasons.

Biden's two Colombia/Cambodia gaffes were widely reported internationally. Some U.S. media mentioned the gaffes, others didn't. Would the coverage have been as skimpy if the gaffes were uttered by Biden's predecessor? We'll never know. But this I do know – what is happening isn't necessarily media bias, because of two factors.

One: Biden also spent a lot of time at these summits discussing the various global issues in great detail.

Two: The 40-year-old senator I rode the rails with ages ago was already earning his reputation for blurting gaffes. We thought it was just Joe being Joe.

Today, I have no idea how much extra "age" baggage – if any! – Joe has acquired in his annual travels around the sun. But it may be something Joe and Jill need to be talking about during this holiday season.

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The military must take responsibility for 'forever chemicals'

By JONATHAN SHARP
PROGRESSIVE PERSPECTIVES

Since the early 20th century, the U.S. military's negligent use, storage and disposal of harmful chemical substances on its bases has exposed countless troops to severe health hazards. One example is Camp Lejeune, a Marine Corps base in North Carolina, where toxic contamination went unnoticed for several decades until measures were taken in the mid-1980s. As a result, thousands of veterans and their family members developed life-threatening and debilitating diseases.

Veterans aren't the only people impacted by the military's careless practices. Contaminated army bases pose a public health threat to surrounding communities, which are often populated by marginalized minority groups. What's more, service members of color face higher toxic exposure risks due to the lower ranking status they are usually relegated to.

Camp Lejeune, built during World War II, served as the first base where African American soldiers were trained. During these initial years, these recruits were segregated to Point Montford, a facility located on the base's marshy northern outskirts. When the military desegregated in the late 1940s, African American Marines were shuffled from Point Montford to other facilities across Camp Lejeune where contamination ran rampant.

From 1953 to 1987, nearly 1 million troops and their families were exposed to a cocktail of toxic hazards from on-site and off-base sources, including notorious carcinogens like per/polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, which are commonly known as "forever chemicals." Despite its notoriety, Camp Lejeune is only one of the more than 700 bases affected by toxic contamination, with grave implications for minority service members.

Although the Department of Defense has acknowledged the extensive issues with toxic contaminants on its installations and has increasingly been addressing them, progress has been lackluster. Only nine of the 50 bases with the highest rates of PFAS contaminants currently have clean-up plans underway. Even more concerning, the Department of Defense found that PFAS from at least 12 bases are contaminating the water supplies in their vicinity and threatening surrounding communities.

In other instances, the army's disregard for public health was far more blatant. During the Trump administration, more than 20 million pounds of toxic PFAS-containing firefighting foam were covertly burned across the country, often near impoverished minority neighborhoods.

Combating environmental racism requires comprehensive legal action that addresses environmental crime at its core. Despite Trump's reckless mishandling of environmental policy, the United States' long standing toxic contaminant issues are a focal point for the Biden administration, whose Justice40 program seeks to direct 40% of future climate investments toward at-risk minority communities.

In August, the Honoring Our PACT Act passed with solid bipartisan support and was signed into law, providing veterans and their families affected by toxins on bases like Camp Lejeune with easier access to improved medical benefits and compensation.

Other legal initiatives, such as the Clean Water for Military Families Act and Filthy Fifty Act, push for increased action to speed up remediation efforts on military bases affected by widespread PFAS contaminants. Most encouraging of all, the EPA recently updated its health advisory recommendations for PFAS compounds, reducing safety limits from 70 parts per trillion to a significantly lower standard that better reflects the risks these ubiquitous contaminants represent.

Jonathan Sharp serves the Environmental Litigation Group, PC, as chief financial officer. The Birmingham, Alabama-based law firm specializes in toxic exposure cases, helping individuals who were harmed by toxic substances on U.S. army bases. This column was produced by Progressive Perspectives, which is run by The Progressive magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service.

The election was a modest victory for democracy

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.

Adjacent essays in the current issue of Foreign Affairs ably depict America's two primary international competitors.

In "Russia's Dangerous Decline," Andrea Kendall-Taylor and Michael Kofman warn the United States and the West against complacency as the momentum of the war in Ukraine appears to be turning against Russia.

Putin's attack on Ukraine, they argue, is a reflection of more than one man's misguided hubris. After Putin is gone and his country has been diminished by the war, Russia will continue to be "driven by its resentments, a quest for geopolitical space outside its borders, and a desire for status."

And, most ominous, Kendall-Taylor and Kofman conclude that "authoritarianism in Russia will likely outlast Putin."

Then there's China. In "The World According to Xi Jinping," Kevin Rudd portrays China's President Xi as a "true believer" in a communist state. Xi is a Leninist in terms of party control and a devoted Marxist in terms of economic theory. This means, according to Rudd, a stark reversal of the liberalization and economic pragmatism that China enjoyed under Xi's predecessors.

Together these essays provide an instructive representation of what the United States and the West are up against. The term "competitor" is insufficient to describe the relationship between the U.S. and China and Russia. The conflict is less about competition over land and resources—the traditional grounds for war—and more about ideology. In this light, the term "adversary" is much more appropriate.

Sometimes we call our nation "exceptional." I'm generally leery of this term. If you're truly exceptional, it's up to others to point it out. If you say it about yourself, you might just be bragging.

Nevertheless, it's clear that in 1776 the Founders undertook something exceptional and near-unique, the creation of a republic based on governance by the governed.

Our history is fraught with contradictions, hypocrisies and failures, but we have managed to preserve an intact republic that stands in very sharp contrast to Russia, China and the other rising autocracies. These two theories of governance—autocracy and democracy—are irreconcilable, and to the extent that autocracy is determined to win, it's a conflict that we cannot afford to lose.

How do we win? At the end of his essay, Kevin Rudd says that just as Xi is a "true believer," the United States and its allies must be "true believers," as well, which requires "a radical reembrace of the principles that distinguish liberal-democratic political systems."

The election of Nov. 8 was a modest recommitment to these principles, including the most essential principle, faith in the ballot and a willingness to accept graciously the outcomes of elections.

The integrity of our elections was the critical issue on the ballot. All Americans should be gratified that concerns about chaos and violence at the polls did not materialize. Many candidates who built their campaigns around the "big lie" of the 2020 election were defeated, and many of them accepted their defeats with gracious concessions.

Still, the election was close. Some election deniers were elected, and many Republicans who voted against certification of the 2020 presidential outcome were returned to Congress. The House has been recaptured by Republicans with only a sketchy commitment to the reliability of our elections.

Nevertheless, the Nov. 8 election was an affirmation of our commitment to democracy: The judgment of the people is what determines who represents us in Congress, even if some of the elected have expressed less than full faith in our democratic system.

Did you see former Chinese President Hu Jintao being hustled, apparently unwillingly, out of the closing ceremony of the Communist Party Congress? That's what happens to leaders who have fallen out of favor in autocracies.

In our country, Donald Trump is allowed to run for office again. Only in America do citizens retain the right to elect a leader who rejects—without any evidence—democracy's most essential principle.

Still, the basics aren't complicated: Our system is superior to China's and Russia's. Ukraine must win. Election deniers must lose. And our democracy requires a constant recommitment to its values by every American.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Go vote. It's your right and your duty

Voted early last week for Arnold and David and was delighted to see a robust turnout. Not just older residents such as myself but many younger citizens, some proudly and excitedly taking part in their first election/runoff.

That over 3/4 of eligible Commonwealth voters participated in the recent election is outstanding. There are many areas back on the mainland that would be happy to have little more than a third of electorate cast a ballot in a local and midterm elections.

Kudos to all the election workers as from my standpoint as a voter, the process went exactly as it should; without drama or delay. Your work is often unrecognized but is vital and appreciated.

To those who complain that the process takes too long or contending with competing campaigns and their messaging is tiring, I have little empathy. This is the process that guides our republic. Representative democracy is often messy, boisterous, and even loathsome but it the best system we have—especially in these dangerous times that would seem to favor the wannabe autocrats and authoritarians among us.

Note to Gov. Torres: Arnold and David and Tina and Leila cooperating and openly forming a coalition is not "collusion"(which wrongly implies a conspiracy and nebulous nefarious acts); it's the essence of democracy. Take a look around the world and you will find functioning democracies are often composed of and governed by highly varied coalitions—Greens working with Christian Democrats, hardcore conservatives working with socialists, etc. To be a successful and properly functioning adult is to understand that the nature of life itself involves constant compromise. Just because Torres is incapable of accepting valid criticisms and the adroit political maneuvering of political adversaries doesn't mean there is an iota of impropriety involved in their behaviors. None. Nada. Zilch.

Anyway, I find myself remembering a parable about a person living in a glass house probably shouldn't throw stones…

Your vote matters, especially now. If you haven't voted yet, I ask that you do so. If you need a ride to a polling station, ask a relative, friend, or neighbors or call your candidate's campaign and I'm sure both sides will do what they can to hook you up. There is no denying this gubernatorial runoff election is the most important in the history of the CNMI. You know where I stand and that's with the coalition of Arnold and David, Tina, and Leila and their thousands of supporters.

Just vote. It's a privilege. It's your right. It's your duty.

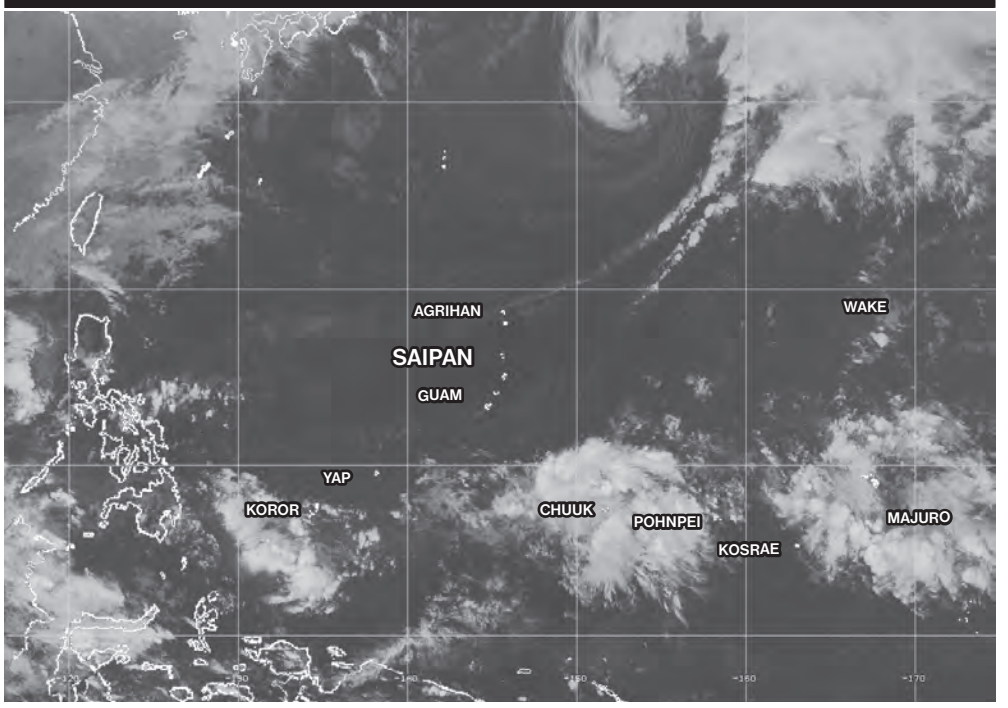
Mark Farmer
Garapan, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny	Partly sunny
86° 76°	86° 78°	86° 78°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:45 AM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Isolated showers are present across the region with cloud tops at 20 kft. Buoys show a primary northeast swell of 5 feet at 9 seconds.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	82° / 77°
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Isolated Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	82° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Thursday	6:23 AM	5:43 PM
Friday	6:23 AM	5:43 PM
Saturday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:19 AM	5:03 PM	-
Thursday	6:21 AM	5:55 PM	-
Friday	7:27 AM	6:53 PM	-
Saturday	8:34 AM	7:57 PM	-
Sunday	9:39 AM	9:04 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Thunderstorms	66° / 57°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	55° / 34°
Hong Kong	Rain	76° / 72°
Honolulu	Sunny	83° / 72°
London	Rain	52° / 45°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	76° / 48°
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 77°
Melbourne	Cloudy	63° / 51°
Miami	Showers	80° / 74°
New York	Sunny	50° / 35°
Osaka	Rain	61° / 56°
Paris	Light Rain	50° / 43°
Busan	Showers	67° / 48°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	60° / 48°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 43°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	62° / 44°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	61° / 36°
Tokyo	Rain	55° / 52°
Washington, DC	Sunny	54° / 33°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:52 AM	Low Tide	-0.28
7:34 AM	High Tide	1.74
12:58 PM	Low Tide	0.87
6:22 PM	High Tide	1.87

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	7:45AM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau
OZ624/701	3:40PM	10:35AM+1	3,6 via Incheon

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

OZ624	3:40PM	7:40PM	3, 6
TW308	4:30PM	8:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
OZ704/623	11:50PM	2:40PM+1	2, 5 via Incheon

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ623	9:00AM	2:40PM	3, 6
TW307	10:00AM	3:30PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.	

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.	

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Celebrating the month of Education

The future of our islands lies in education, the basis on which our islands will continue to grow. Our schools and institutions continue to be a foundation of knowledge and opportunities for our community, and we dedicate this month to celebrating our many educational successes. I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to our educators for their honorable dedication to teaching, and to our students for their driven commitment to learning. Education is a collective effort toward changing our world for the better, and I commend everyone for their shared support for our schools.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilisow, and Happy Education Month, Marianas!

– GOVERNOR RALPH DLG. TORRES

CORRUPTION HAS A NAME.

Arnold I. Palacios
Acting Governor

ARNOLD ONLY WORKS FOR HIS BEST INTERESTS.

Arnold does what's best for Arnold; not what's best for the CNMI.
Kandit News reported on the complaint filed by **Patricia Guerrero** with US Dept of Commerce and US Census Bureau, when Arnold gave contracts to his friends -- ***without a bidding process***.
Arnold gave his pals **Clyde Norita and Virginia Villagomez**, contracts worth **almost $200,000**.
But, they weren't the only ones. Another friend, **Jose Terlaje** also got a **fat cat pay day from Arnold**. Seems like every time Arnold was ***"Acting Governor"*** he gave away hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxpayer money to his friends.
Just imagine what Arnold will do when it's no longer an act.

KANDIT NEWS GROUP

KANDIT NEWS REPORTED ON PATRICIA GUERRERO'S FEDERAL CORRUPTION COMPLAINT AGAINST ARNOLD PALACIOS AND CLYDE NORITA

FROM : **Arnold I. Palacios, Acting Governor**

SUBJECT : **Sole Source Justification**
Re: Claudio K. Norita dba Trublu Resources

This memorandum serves as the justification for the Sole Source proc
and consulting services from Claudio K. Norita for the Offices of the Go

form the services described in this contract and the do
this contract. The Commonwealth agrees to pay $137,57
and consideration for this agree the mutu
Date: 2/8/2022
Time: 12:46 pm

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 7, 2022

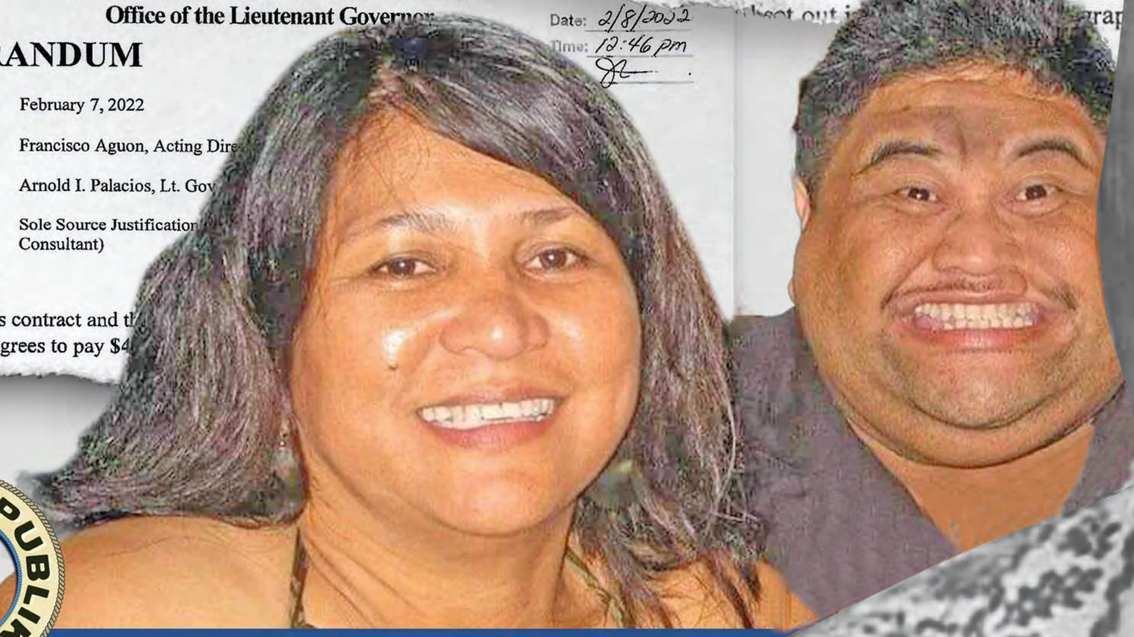
TO: Francisco Aguon, Acting Dire

FROM: Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov

SUBJECT: Sole Source Justification
Consultant)

RATION AND SCOPE OF WORK

perform the services described in this contract and th
o this contract. The Commonwealth agrees to pay $4

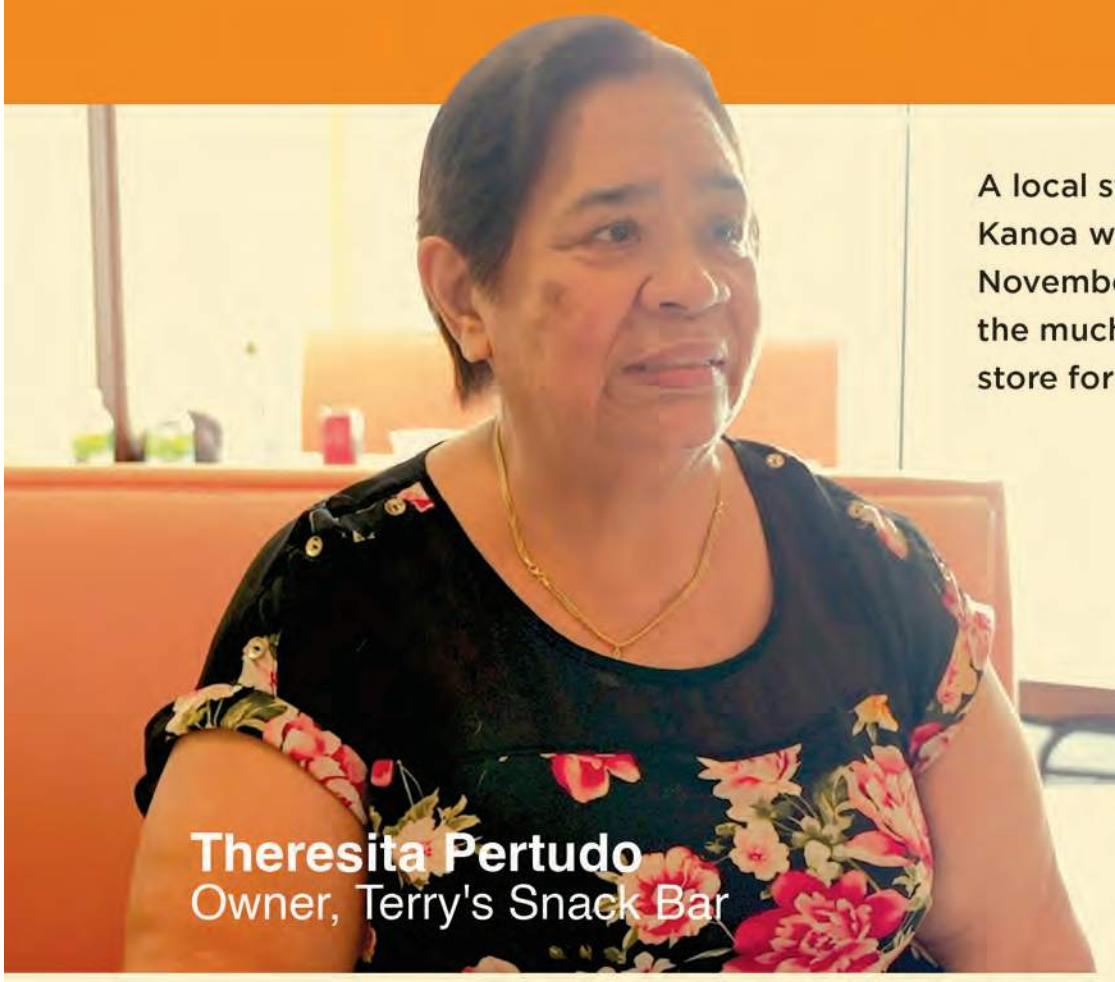


FUETSAN PUBLIKU

THIS AD IS PAID FOR BY THE PUBLIC ADVOCACY GROUP AGAINST CORRUPTION FUETSAN PUBLIKU
PLEASE WRITE-IN TINA & LEILA FOR GOV. AND LT GOV INSTEAD

“”

I am so happy for the people that really need it. **I work so hard that's why I want to build a big store, and I have to upgrade my store too** because this store is since 1972. Si Yu'os Ma'åse everybody.



A local staple in the CNMI, Terry's Snack Bar in Chalan Kanoa was awarded their BOOST Grant check on November 1st. Theresita Pertudo says she is thankful for the much needed help, and she has plans to improve the store for her customers and the people of the CNMI.

BOOST Program is the acronym for - **B**uilding **O**ptimism, **O**pportunities and **S**tability **T**ogether. It is a financial assistance in the form of Grants – initiated by the Office of the Governor, Department of Commerce, and Department of Finance – provided to local businesses and non-profits, as well as coaching and training programs to support their viability and help create employment opportunities. The program also supports the Commonwealth government's goal of diversifying the economy and increasing tax revenues.

BOOST has helped entrepreneurs across CNMI get back on their feet.

COVID-19 CRIPPLED A LOT OF DREAMS AND BUSINESSES

BOOST Program gives new hope and inspires people across Northern Marianas to get back on their feet.

BOOST RE-OPENED

$5,000,000

BOOST SMALL BUSINESS & NON-PROFIT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RE-OPENED.

Previous applications will be included.

Apply for it now. While funds last.

For inquiries simply logon to
www.boostcnmi.com

BOOST Program is the acronym for - **B**uilding **O**ptimism, **O**pportunities and **S**tability **T**ogether. It is a financial assistance in the form of Grants – initiated by the Office of the Governor, Department of Commerce, and Department of Finance – provided to local businesses and non-profits, as well as coaching and training programs to support their viability and help create employment opportunities.

The program also supports the Commonwealth government's goal of diversifying the economy and increasing tax revenues.

BOOST

Fishing, farming, and ranching is an important source of food and nutritional security throughout the Marianas. For many, it is a source of income.

Such practices have been passed on from generation to generation and is an important part of our culture and indigeneity. Fishing, farming and ranching create important ties between families and individuals as well as strengthening ties to our environment.

The BOOST Fishers, Farmers and Ranchers program is designed to promote food and nutritional security, protect and promote traditional cultural practices, as well as to diversify and revitalize the economy for those engaged in commercial activity.

BOOST funds are extended to fishers, farmers, and ranchers who produce for sale and trade. A BOOST subsistence stimulus up to $500 is available for applicants who fish, farm or ranch for personal consumption.

BOOST Fishers Farmers Ranchers PROGRAM

Terms and conditions apply. Subject to the availability of funds.

FAQs: HOW DO YOU QUALIFY?

Applicants for **subsistence stimulus** up to $500 must provide evidence of fishing, farming, or ranching activities (video, photos, letters of reference, or other form of testimonial).

Applicants applying for BOOST funds for **commercial sale and trade** must submit a Cover Letter, Copy of Business License, Letter of Compliance (i.e., Tax Clearance), Business Profile, List of Products and Services, and a short Business Plan (no finances required). Corporations are required to submit a Certificate of Existence (i.e., Good Standing)

SIGN UP AT BANK OF SAIPAN

TINIAN RESIDENTS CAN SUBMIT ON MONDAY 9:00AM - 2:00PM AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

ROTA RESIDENTS CAN SUBMIT ON WEDNESDAY 9:00AM - 2:00PM AT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

WHERE MAY I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Visit boostcnmi.com or contact the Bank of Saipan at (670) 235-6260

SUBSISTENCE APPLICATION FORM

Last _____ Contact Info

First _____ Middle _____ Tel. #: _____

Email: _____

Physical address: _____

Mailing address: _____

Instructions: Please mark which category you are applying for. If you are applying for more than one, please rank which category is more important.

- ❑ **Fisher**
- ❑ **Farmer**
- ❑ **Rancher**

Form of Proof: Subsistefishers, farmers and ranchers must provide evidence of fishing activities. Please mark what is submitted by the applicant:

- ❑ Video
- ❑ Photos
- ❑ Letter(s) of reference
- ❑ Other

Notes:

For internal purposes:

Name of Official (print and sign) _____ Date: _____

Time: _____

For more information, visit www.boostcnmi.com or email FFR@boostcnmi.com

SIS student wins award in global environmental arts contest

Claire Park, a student at Saipan International School, has won a Notable Award for her Art submission to the 2022 Ocean Awareness Contest, sponsored by Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Programs. Park, whose piece was selected from more than 4,000 entries from around the world, will be featured in Bow Seat's Gallery, which showcases environmental advocacy artwork created by a global community of youth.

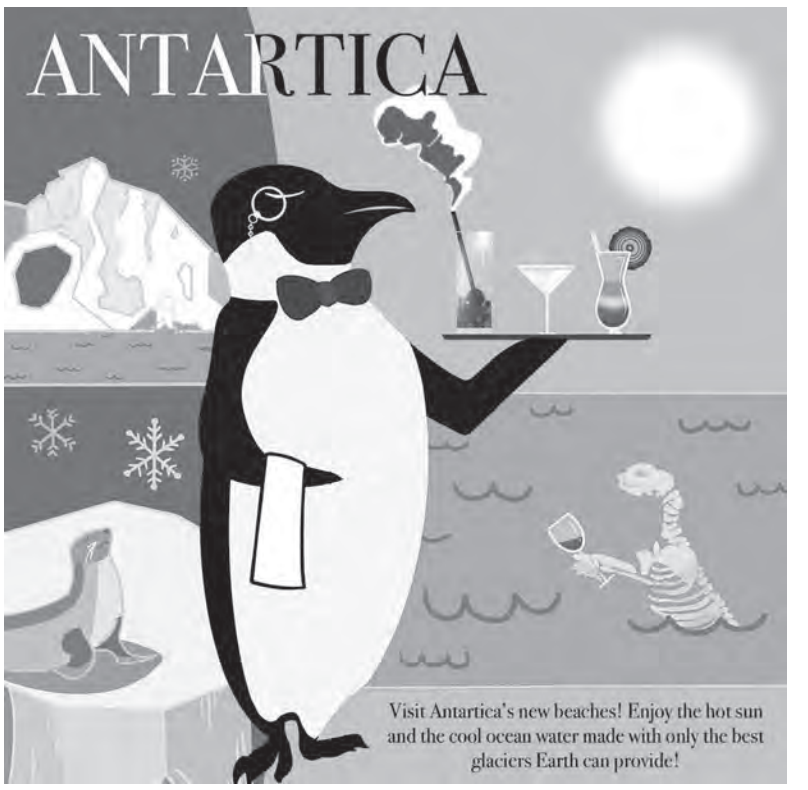
Park

The 2022 Contest, "The Funny Thing About Climate Change," challenged participants to create pieces that subvert expectations for what climate change messaging typically looks like through unorthodox approaches like humor, satire, parody, irony, and positivity. Park's Art submission, titled "Vacation in Antarctica," focused on melting glaciers and rising sea levels by using humor. She did this by indirectly pointing out the melting glaciers and the effects they would eventually have on animals through a travel poster that is advertising a nice vacation.

Bow Seat's annual Ocean Awareness Contest, now on its 12th year, is an award-winning educational program that provides students with a platform to creatively explore, express, and advocate for environmental issues. Since its launch, the contest has engaged nearly 30,000 middle and high schoolers from all 50 U.S. states and more than 130 countries. Bow Seat has awarded over $625,000 in scholarships to help advance teens' creative talents and passion for the environment.

"When we launched the 2022 contest, we recognized that the theme—to use humor and other unconventional approaches in climate change communications—would be challenging," said Linda Cabot, founder and president of Bow Seat. "We are so impressed by participants like Claire who stepped out of her comfort zone and demonstrated how comedy, satire, and irony can be effective ways to address difficult subjects.

"Although climate change is no laughing matter, the judges were entertained by many of the submissions, which collectively showed us how humor offers a safe way for people to approach, understand, and start conversations about divisive topics," added Cabot.


ANTARCTICA
Visit Antarctica's new beaches! Enjoy the hot sun and the cool ocean water made with only the best glaciers Earth can provide!
Claire Park's award-winning artwork, titled "Vacation in Antarctica," focuses on melting glaciers and rising sea levels while using humor. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

For her piece, titled *Vacation in Antarctica*, Park said she tried to convey the topic of the melting glaciers and rising sea levels by indirectly pointing out the melting glaciers and the effects they would eventually have on animals through a travel poster advertising a nice vacation. "The drinks the penguin is holding represent either a cause or an effect that relates to the topic: the red drink represents the burning of coal and fossil fuel, the yellow drink shows Antarctica melting, and the colorful drink references deforestation," commented Park. "The message of this artwork is that if we don't act now and change, it will cause more damage to not only the animals depending on the habitat, but to us as well." ***(PR)***

High Court again passes on chance to overrule *Insular Cases*

For the second time in as many months, the Supreme Court has denied review of a petition calling to overrule the *Insular Cases*.

Yesterday morning, the U.S. Supreme Court denied review of *Federación de Maestros de Puerto Rico v. Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico*, which specifically asked the court "whether the *Insular Cases* should be overruled." This follows statements made by Justices Neil Gorsuch and Sonia Sotomayor earlier this year in *U.S. v. Vaello Madero* calling on the Supreme Court to overrule the *Insular Cases* in "an appropriate case." Gorsuch declared that the *Insular Cases* "rest on a rotten foundation" and Sotomayor called the *Insular Cases* "odious and wrong." There was no noted dissent to denial in yesterday's order by the High Court.

"Next year marks the 125th anniversary of the United States having formal overseas colonies, yet the Supreme Court continues to avoid answering whether the colonial framework established by the racist *Insular Cases* remains 'good law,'" said Neil Weare, president and founder of Equally American, which advocates for equality and civil rights in U.S. territories. Weare represented the plaintiffs in *Fitisemanu v. United States*, which the Supreme Court denied review of last month. "It is increasingly clear not only that the United States has a colonies problem, but that it stubbornly refuses to recognize it," Weare added.

Petitioners in the case are represented by attorneys Jessica Mendez Colberg and Rolando Emmanuelli, who previously called on the Supreme Court to overrule the *Insular Cases* during oral argument in *FOMB v. Aurelius*. ***(PR)***

Limited hours at COVID-19 testing center

The Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center will be operational for half-day only on Nov. 24, 2022, which is Thanksgiving Day. On that day, testing will be from 8am to 11am, while office hours is from 8am to 12pm.

The community center will be closed on Nov. 25, 2022, which is runoff election day.

The Travel Test team can be reached at (670) 785-9966 or (670) 287-7570. ***(PR)***

Name: Lucy A Mejia
and Fernando P. Mejia Sr.
Address: PMB 621 P.O. Box 10005
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 288-1131/789-3755

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

J.P.M. -INITIALS ONLY J.M.C. -INITIALS ONLY Minor Child By:. Lucy A. Mejia Fernando P. Mejia Sr. Petitioner	)	FCD-AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0383 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on November 28, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 13th day of July, 2022.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

DEVELOPMENT OF ECHO DOCK
PORT OF SAIPAN
CPA RFP NO. CPA-RFP-010-2022
(CPA CONCESSION NO. SEA 2022-01)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("Authority") is inviting qualified developers and their development teams to submit sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for the development of Echo Dock, which is situated north of the Port of Saipan. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the Authority because the Authority wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone. This RFP is being issued pursuant to NMIAC § 40-70-205.

The RFP Package is available beginning Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at the Authority's Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport upon payment of a non-refundable administrative fee of $200.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check, or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Other than this administrative fee, proposers are not required to submit a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Authority will hold a briefing for interested parties at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 16, 2022, to explain the Authority's development objectives, the RFP process, and to answer questions. The meeting will be held at the Authority's Seaport Conference Room, George Fleming Building. All potential applicants are encouraged to attend but it is not mandatory.

All proposers are requested to pay attention to the following significant dates and times:

Date RFP Package becomes available	August 31, 2022 (8:00 AM)
Date of RFP briefing meeting	September 16, 2022 (10:00 AM)
Deadline to submit Notice of Intent	September 28, 2022 (4:00 PM)
Deadline to submit Statement of Qualifications	October 13, 2022 (4:00 PM)
Notification of qualified applicants of the RFP	October 28, 2022
Deadline for RFP submission	November 30, 2022 (4:00 PM)

Qualified proposers shall submit their sealed proposals to the "CPA Evaluation Committee" and mark the outside cover of its submittal as follows: "RFP Proposal: Confidential - Development of the Echo Dock, Saipan (RFP-010-2022)." Five (5) hard copies and one electronic copy on CD, DVD, or flash drive of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. CHST, Wednesday, November 30, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened. The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if sufficient justification exist that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of the CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date **8/26/2022**

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 | Email: cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net | Website: http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairperson of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 2, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  a. Call to Order
  b. Roll Call
  c. Adoption of Agenda
  d. Adoption of Minutes: March 28, 2022, May 17, 2022, and June 1, 2022
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
  a. FY 2022 Financial Statements
  b. Financial Statements As of October 31, 2022
IV. OLD BUSINESS
  a. CDBG-DR Updates
V. NEW BUSINESS
  a. Request for Approval - Return and Reallocation: (1) Palm Breeze, (2) Lotus Homes, (3) Ladera Homes
  b. Request for Approval - Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan
  c. Request for Approval - Duplication of Benefits Proposed Amendments
  d. Request for Approval - Amend Homebuyer/New Construction and Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Policies and Procedures Regarding: (1) DTI and Payment to Income Ratios, (2) Household Income Re-Evaluation Period, and (3) Property Value Limits
  e. Request for Approval – De-obligate $14,602,500 from CDBG-DR Infrastructure Program and transfer to CDBG-DR Homebuyer/New Construction Program
  f. Request for Approval - Modify Renter's from a Rent-to-Own Agreement to a Loan Agreement
  g. Request for Approval - Increase HFLP Loan Amount
VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. OTHER MATTERS
IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
Merced (Marcie) M. Tomokane
Chairperson of the Board

Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670)433-9213
Fax: (670)433-3690

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Rota Field Office
Tel: (670)532-9410
Fax: (670)532-9441

Business

BAB's Korean BBQ buffet returns

CONTRIBUTED PJOTO

BAB Korean Restaurant's all-you-can-eat Korean barbecue buffet is now back after temporarily closing for nearly a month.

MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Those pining for BAB Korean Restaurant's all-you-can-eat Korean barbecue buffet can heave a big sigh of relief now.

This after the Garapan landmark brought back its famous smokey smorgasbord last week after temporarily halting it for nearly a month.

Dante Conlu, who handles marketing and promotions for the Garapan restaurant, said BAB Korean Restaurant closed its widely popular Korean barbecue buffet to reassess pricing and because the restaurant itself underwent some minor renovations.

To reflect the rising cost of meat products and other ingredients, the eat-all-you-can Korean barbecue buffet now costs $24.99. It still comes with your delectable banchan offerings, favorite pork belly, marinated pork butt, and marinated chicken plus unlimited Coca-Cola products.

However, instead of the customary shabu-shabu as the second course, BAB Korean Restaurant subbed it out with a rotating soup of the day.

"No more shabu-shabu at the end, that is actually the Korean-style of eating. For Filipinos and local customers, soup is enjoyed at the beginning and not the end," said Conlu.

He added that sometimes diners would beg off from having the shabu-shabu already because they're basically full enjoying the eat-all-you-can Korean barbecue buffet.

Soup of the day changes week to week and rotates among the following—galbitang, seaweed soup, kimchi soup, fishcake soup, and Korean soybean paste stew, among others.

As for the minor renovations, Conlu said they're planning to convert part of the restaurant to private karaoke rooms to cater to another segment of customers. They're also planning to serve a special lunch apart from the Korean barbecue buffet.

Now that their eat-you-can offering has reopened, BAB Korean Restaurant is inviting their loyal customers to enjoy it once again.

"It's funny that when we closed for a few weeks that's when our customers kept calling and begging us to reopen. So far, BAB Restaurant is still the only Korean barbecue buffet on island and we're here to stay," said Conlu.

The eat-all-you-can Korean barbecue buffet is open from 5pm to 9:30pm everyday. It costs $24.99 per person but children 5-11 years old pay only $12.99.

BAB Korean Restaurant also has two new offerings for its drive-thru Cup BAB menu—chicken dori ($13) and pork belly adobo ($8).

"We just want to give our drive-thru customers more options for their takeaway food. The adobo is our own twist to a Filipino staple, while the chicken dori has always been a favorite of our Korean and local diners who always like things a bit spicy," said Conlu.

They will also soon open Cup BAB Afetnas either at the end of this month or first week of December.

"We can finally capture customers in the southern part of Saipan—San Antonio, Koblerville, and Chalan Piao," said Conlu.

BAB Korean Restaurant is located at the old Caesar's Sauna building along Middle Road in Garapan. It's open Monday-Sunday from 5pm to 9:30pm. Cup BAB drive-thru in Garapan and San Jose are from 10am to 9pm. For reservations and for more information, call 233-4222 (Garapan) and 235-4222 (San Jose) or contact them on their Facebook page: Cup BAB.

Consumers could pay price if railroads, unions can't agree

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Consumers could see higher gas prices and shortages of some of their favorite groceries during the winter holiday season if railroads and all of their unions can't agree on new contracts by an early-December deadline that had already been pushed back.

The likelihood of a strike that would paralyze the nation's rail traffic grew on Monday when the largest of the 12 rail unions, which represents mostly conductors, rejected management's latest offering that included 24% raises and $5,000 in bonuses. With four of the 12 unions that represent half of the 115,000 rail workers holding out for a better deal, it might fall to Congress to impose one to protect the U.S. economy.

The Retail Industry Leaders Association said a rail strike "would cause enormous disruption" although retail stores are well stocked for the crucial holiday shopping season. It's not clear what a strike would mean for packages because FedEx and UPS, which both rely on rail to some degree, haven't commented in detail.

"Fortunately, this year's holiday gifts have already landed on store shelves. But an interruption to rail transportation does pose a significant challenge to getting items like perishable food products and e-commerce shipments delivered on time, and it will undoubtedly add to the inflationary pressures already hitting the U.S. economy," said Jess Dankert with the group that represents more than 200 major retailers.

Nation

Gay bar shooting suspect faces murder and hate crime charges

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—The man suspected of opening fire at a gay nightclub in Colorado Springs was being held on murder and hate crime charges Monday, while hundreds of people gathered to honor the five people killed and 17 wounded in the attack on a venue that for decades was a sanctuary for the local LGBTQ community.

Anderson Lee Aldrich, 22, faces five murder charges and five charges of committing a bias-motivated crime causing bodily injury in Saturday night's attack at Club Q, online court records showed.

Authorities said the attack was halted by two club patrons including Richard Fierro, who told reporters Monday night that he took a handgun from Aldrich, hit him with it and pinned him down with help from another person.

Fierro, a 15-year U.S. Army veteran who owns a local brewery, said he was celebrating a birthday with family members when the suspect "came in shooting." Fierro said during a lull in the shooting he ran at the suspect, who was wearing some type of armor plates, and pulled him down before severely beating him until police arrived.

"I tried to save people and it didn't work for five of them," he said. "These are all good people. ... I'm not a hero. I'm just some dude."

Fierro's daughter's longtime boyfriend, Raymond Green Vance, 22, was killed, while his daughter hurt her knee as she ran for cover. Fierro injured his hands, knees and ankle while stopping the shooter.

The suspect remained hospitalized with unspecified injuries but is expected to make his first court appearance in the next couple of days, after doctors clear him to be released from the hospital.

The charges against Aldrich were preliminary, and prosecutors had not filed formal charges in court yet. The hate crime charges would require proving that the gunman was motivated by bias, such as against the victims' actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

Local and federal authorities during a Monday news briefing declined to answer questions about why hate crime charges are being considered, citing the ongoing investigation. District Attorney Michael Allen noted that the murder charges would carry the harshest penalty — life in prison — whereas bias crimes are eligible for probation.

"But it is important to let the community know that we do not tolerate bias motivated crimes in this community, that we support communities that have been maligned, harassed and intimidated and abused," Allen said. "And that's one way that we can do that, showing that we will put the money where our mouth is, essentially, and make sure that we try it that way."

Additional charges are possible as the investigation continues, he said.

Biden opens holidays, pardons turkeys Chocolate and Chip

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden continued a 75-year tradition Monday and pardoned a pair of Thanksgiving turkeys named after his favorite flavor of ice cream while cracking jokes about his political party's better-than-expected performance in this month's midterm elections.

"The votes are in, they've been counted and verified," Biden said as he welcomed turkeys Chocolate and Chip before hundreds of people gathered on the South Lawn in unseasonably cold weather. "There's no ballot stuffing. There's no fowl play. The only red wave this season's gonna be if German shepherd Commander knocks over the cranberry sauce on our table." Commander is his dog.

Chocolate and Chip, each weighing nearly 50 pounds (23 kilograms), were driven up from North Carolina on Saturday. They were checked into a room at the Willard hotel, near the White House, to await their visit with the president and his declaration of their freedom.

Chocolate chip is Biden's favorite flavor of ice cream. The president joked at the event that "we could have named them Chips and Science," after the $280 billion CHIPS and Science Act that he championed and signed into law this year.

"I hereby pardon Chocolate and Chip," Biden declared. Before the ceremony, his son Hunter Biden brought his toddler son, Beau, who is almost 3, outside to see the turkeys.

Both gobblers were hatched in July in Monroe, North Carolina, according to the National Turkey Federation, sponsor of the turkey tradition, which dates to 1947 and President Harry Truman.

The burst of holiday activity at the White House followed a busy weekend personally for Biden and his family, along with midterm elections that saw the president's Democratic Party perform well enough to defy historical trends that had forecast huge losses. Democrats will keep control of the Senate. Although Republicans will control the House when a new Congress is seated in January, Democrats did keep GOP gains in that chamber to a minimum.

The official White House Christmas tree was delivered Monday, and the Bidens helped serve a Thanksgiving-style dinner on a North Carolina Marine Corps base later that evening.

Biden and his wife, Jill, were scheduled to leave Washington on Tuesday to continue their family tradition of spending the Thanksgiving holiday on the Massachusetts island of Nantucket. They hosted the wedding of their granddaughter Naomi Biden at the White House on Saturday, followed by a family brunch on Sunday for the president's 80th birthday.

Humor aside, the president ended Monday's White House event on a serious note, encouraging people to get their COVID-19 vaccines to ensure a healthy holiday season. He also encouraged Americans to reflect and "be grateful for what we have."

"This is a special time ... in the greatest nation on Earth, so let's be thankful," he said.

Chocolate and Chip were set to live the rest of their lives on the campus of North Carolina State University.

Jill Biden did her part by receiving the official White House Christmas tree. The 18 foot-tall (5.5 meters) Concolor fir grown on a farm in Pennsylvania, the state where the president was born and the first lady grew up, will fill the Blue Room after a chandelier is temporarily removed to allow the tree to be anchored in place for safety.

Asia

162 dead in Indonesia quake

CIANJUR, Indonesia (AP)—Rescuers searched for bodies and survivors Tuesday in the rubble of buildings that collapsed in an earthquake that killed at least 162 people on Indonesia's main island of Java and injured hundreds more, overwhelming hospitals.

Excavators, trucks and other heavy equipment sent overnight reached the hardest-hit city of Cianjur, south of Jakarta. The city, in the country's most densely populated province of West Java, was near the epicenter of magnitude 5.6 temblor Monday afternoon, which sent terrified residents fleeing into the streets, some covered in blood and debris.

One woman told The Associated Press when the earthquake hit her home in Cianjur, the building started "shaking like it was dancing."

"I was crying and immediately grabbed my husband and children," said the woman, who gave her name only as Partinem. The house collapsed shortly after she escaped with her family.

"If I didn't pull them out we might have also been victims," she said, gazing over the pile of concrete and timber rubble.

In addition to those killed, authorities reported more than 300 people were seriously hurt and at least 600 more suffered minor injuries. It was not immediately clear how many remain missing.

In the village of Cijedil, northwest of Cianjur, the quake triggered a landslide that blocked streets and buried several houses, and there were reports that 25 people were still buried, said Henri Alfiandi, the chief of the National Search and Rescue Agency.

AP

A man collects clothings from his damaged house following an earthquake in Cianjur, West Java, Indonesia Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022.

"We are maximizing operations at several points where it is suspected that there are still casualties. Our team is also trying to reach remote areas," he said. "For us, all victims are a priority, our goal is to find them and save lives by getting them evacuated as soon as possible and get medical help."

With hospitals already overwhelmed, patients lay on stretchers and cots in tents set up outside, with intravenous drips in their arms as they awaited further treatment.

Many of the dead were public school students who had finished their classes for the day and were taking extra lessons at Islamic schools when the buildings collapsed, West Java Gov. Ridwan Kamil said.

Initial rescue attempts were hampered by damaged roads and bridges and power blackouts, and a lack of heavy equipment to help move the heavy concrete rubble. By Tuesday, power supplies and phone communications had begun to improve.

Operations were focused on about a dozen locations in Cianjur, where people are still believed trapped, said Endra Atmawidjaja, the public works and housing spokesperson.

"We are racing against time to rescue people," Atmawidjaja said, adding that seven excavators and 10 large trucks had been deployed from neighboring Bandung and Bogor cities to continue clearing trees and soil that blocked roads.

Cargo trucks carrying food, tents, blankets and other supplies from Jakarta were arriving early Tuesday in temporary shelters. Still, thousands spent the night in the open fearing aftershocks.

"Buildings were completely flattened," said Dwi Sarmadi, who works for an Islamic educational foundation in a neighboring district.

Spotlight on Malaysia's king to resolve election stalemate

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's election uncertainty deepened Tuesday after a political bloc refused to support either reformist leader Anwar Ibrahim or rival Malay nationalist Muhyiddin Yassin as prime minister, three days after divisive polls produced no outright winner.

The stalemate put the spotlight on the nation's ceremonial king, who will have to find a way to resolve the impasse.

Anwar's Pakatan Harapan, or Alliance of Hope, topped Saturday's elections with 83 parliamentary seats, but failed to reach the 112 needed for a majority. He has been locked in a battle to form a majority government with former Prime Minister Muhyiddin, whose Malay-centric Perikatan Nasional, or National Alliance, won 72 seats.

Muhyiddin gained an upper hand after securing support of lawmakers from two states on Borneo island but both rivals still need the backing of the long-ruling alliance led by the United Malays National Organization for a majority.

Caretaker Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob, a senior UMNO official, said the highest-decision making body of UMNO-led Barisan Nasional, or National Front alliance, decided at a meeting Tuesday not to support any group to form a government.

"So far, BN has agreed to remain as the opposition," he tweeted.

Malaysia's monarch, Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, asked lawmakers to state their preferred choice for prime minister and coalition by 2 p.m. The king's role is largely ceremonial but he appoints the person he believes has majority support in Parliament as prime minister.

Muhyiddin's bloc includes a hard-line Islamic ally, stoking fears of right-wing politics that may deepen racial divides in the multiethnic nation if it comes to power. The Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party was the biggest winner with a haul of 49 seats — more than double what it won in 2018. Known as PAS, it touts Sharia, rules three states and is now the single largest party.

His alliance said it has already sent more than 112 sworn oaths by lawmakers to the king. UMNO, however, warned that individual support of its lawmakers without the party's approval is invalid.

The drama is a replay of the political turmoil in Malaysia that has seen three prime ministers since 2018 polls.

In early 2020, Muhyiddin abandoned Anwar's ruling alliance, causing its collapse, and joined hands with UMNO to form a new government.

World

UKRAINE TO CIVILIANS:

Leave liberated areas before winter

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian authorities have begun evacuating civilians from recently liberated sections of the Kherson and Mykolaiv regions, fearing that a lack of heat, power and water due to Russian shelling will make living conditions too difficult this winter. The World Health Organization concurred, warning that millions face a "life-threatening" winter in Ukraine.

Authorities urged residents of the two southern regions, which Russian forces have been shelling for months, to move to safer areas in the central and and western parts of the country. Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said Monday that the government will provide transportation, accommodations and medical care for them, with priority for women with children, the sick and elderly.

Vereshchuk last month asked citizens now living abroad not to return to Ukraine for the winter to conserve power. Other officials have suggested that residents in Kyiv or elsewhere who have the resources to leave Ukraine for a few months should do so, to save power for hospitals and other key facilities.

The WHO delivered a chilling warning Monday about the energy crisis' human impact on Ukraine.

"This winter will be life-threatening for millions of people in Ukraine," said the WHO's regional director for Europe, Dr. Hans Henri P. Kluge. "Attacks on health and energy infrastructure mean hundreds of hospitals and healthcare facilities are no longer fully operational, lacking fuel, water and electricity."

He warned of health risks such as respiratory and cardiovascular problems from people trying to warm themselves by burning charcoal or wood and using diesel generators and electric heaters.

The evacuations are taking place more than a week after Ukraine recaptured the city of Kherson, on the western bank of the Dnieper River, and surrounding areas in a major battlefield gain. Since then, heading into the winter, residents and authorities alike are realizing how much power and other infrastructure the Russians damaged or destroyed before retreating.

Ukraine is known for its brutal winter weather, and snow has already covered Kyiv, the capital, and other parts of the country.

Russian forces are fortifying their defense lines along Dnieper River's eastern bank, fearing that Ukrainian forces will push deeper into the region. In the weeks before Ukraine's successful counteroffensive, Russian-installed authorities relocated tens of thousands of Kherson city residents to Russian-held areas.

On Monday, Russian-installed authorities urged other residents to evacuate an area on the river's eastern bank that Moscow now controls, citing intense fighting in Kherson's Kakhovskiy district.

Russia has been pounding Ukraine's power grid and other infrastructure from the air for weeks, causing widespread blackouts and leaving millions of Ukrainians without electricity, heat and water.

To cope, four-hour or longer power outages were scheduled Monday in 15 of Ukraine's 27 regions, according to Volodymyr Kudrytsky, head of Ukraine's state grid operator Ukrenergo. Ukrenergo plans more outages Tuesday. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says Russian missile strikes have damaged more than 50% of the country's energy facilities.

Activists: Iranian forces unleash heavy fire on protesters

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Iranian security forces used heavy gunfire against protesters in a Kurdish town in the country's west on Monday, killing at least five during an anti-government protest that erupted at the funeral of two people killed the day before, activists said.

Videos circulating online show dozens of protesters taking shelter in alleyways as heavy gunfire echoes through the streets. Some show individuals lying motionless and bloodied in the streets, while others show residents gathering at a local hospital to donate blood.

Iran has been convulsed by anti-government protests since the Sept. 16 death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, a Kurdish woman who died in the custody of the country's morality police in the capital, Tehran. The protests, which were initially concentrated in the western, Kurdish region of Iran where Amini was from, have spread across the country and escalated into calls for the overthrow of Iran's ruling clerics.

Hengaw, a Kurdish human rights group, said Iranian security forces unleashed heavy gunfire on protesters in the town of Javanrud, where a funeral was held for two protesters killed the day before. It cited witnesses as saying that Iranian forces used heavy machine guns.

Hengaw said seven people were killed on Monday, while another group, the Kurdistan Human Rights Network, put the toll at five. The latter group said many of the wounded were being treated in homes because of fears they could be arrested from hospitals, making it difficult to confirm the toll. It said several were shot in the head or chest.

Iranian authorities heavily restrict media coverage of the protests and have periodically shut off internet access, making it difficult to confirm details of the unrest.

The semiofficial Fars news agency reported protests in Javanrud on Sunday night, saying security forces were fired upon with live ammunition. It said two people were killed and four wounded.

Later on Monday, state TV interviewed a local security official, Mohammad Pourhashemi, who blamed the shooting in Javanrud on local gunmen who he said had exchanged fire with security forces. The report did not provide further details.

Funerals have often been the scene of renewed protests in recent weeks, as they were during the 1979 Islamic Revolution that brought the clerics to power. The latest demonstrations mark the biggest challenge to the theocracy in over a decade.

At least 426 people have been killed and more than 17,400 arrested, according to Human Rights Activists in Iran, a group monitoring the unrest. It says at least 55 members of the security forces have been killed.

Overdrive

Consumer Reports survey: Hybrids are most reliable vehicles

By TOM KRISHER
AP AUTO WRITER

DETROIT (AP)—Gas-electric hybrids were the most dependable vehicles sold in the U.S. in the past year, while big pickup trucks and fully electric automobiles performed the worst in Consumer Reports' annual reliability survey.

Hybrids generally are tried-and-true designs with few frills, while automakers are cramming glitchy electronic features into expensive new pickups and EVs, the nonprofit group says.

Hybrid technology has been around for more than two decades, and even though the vehicles switch between electric and gasoline power, they don't have a lot of the technology or complex multi-speed transmissions that have caused problems with other vehicles, said Jake Fisher, senior director of auto testing.

"Hybrids are very conventionally built vehicles," Fisher said. "They're catering to practical buyers who are looking for reliable, efficient, safe vehicles, not the latest technology."

With high gas prices and skyrocketing new vehicle costs, people are keeping their vehicles longer, so reliability and fuel economy are becoming more important to buyers, the group's annual survey found. "A hybrid can provide years of trouble-free miles, and they are a good defense against rising fuel prices," Fisher said.

Reliabilty was extremely or very important to 94% of prospective auto buyers, the survey found, and 80% said the same about fuel economy, Consumer Reports said.

Plug-in hybrids, which can go a relatively short distance on battery power before switching to both gas and electricity, don't have the same level of reliability as hybrids, Fisher said.

It helps that most hybrids are sold by Toyota and its Lexus luxury brand, the top two brands in Consumer Reports' rankings, released Tuesday at a meeting of the Automotive Press Association in Detroit.

Germany's BMW leaped 10 places to take the No. 3 spot, while Mazda and Honda rounded out the top five.

Mercedes-Benz was the least reliable of 24 brands in the survey, followed by Jeep, Volkswagen, GMC and Chevrolet.

Tesla, which makes the top selling electric vehicles sold in the U.S., rose four spots to rank No. 19, although it still has quality problems, Fisher said.

Owners reported few problems with Tesla's batteries and motors, but the company did have trouble with paint, fit-and-finish, heating and cooling, and suspension systems, Fisher said. Tesla's Model 3 had average reliability, but the S, Y and X were all below average.

Ford's Lincoln luxury brand had the most improvement in reliability, rising 14 spots to rank 10th and become the only U.S.-based brand in the top 10. The brand's SUVs are older models that have been on sale for more years, allowing Ford to work out the bugs, Fisher said.

Full-size pickup trucks, Fisher said, have become luxury vehicles with large touch screens and multi-speed transmissions. They're popular, so the market is competitive, with buyers seeking the latest in infotainment and other technology, he said. The survey found problems with Ford's F-150 trailer controller and power liftgates, while Chevrolet's Silverado had some engine issues, Fisher said.

Only seven of the 17 pickup models in this year's survey had average or better reliability.

In theory, electric vehicles should be more reliable than internal combustion vehicles, Fisher said. But in addition to Tesla's problems, EVs from other automakers had charging and battery trouble and electric drive motor issues. Of 11 EVs for which Consumer Reports had adequate survey data, only four had average or better reliability.

Consumer Reports based its rankings on a survey of owners representing more than 300,000 vehicles from the 2000 through 2022 model years, with a few new 2023 models included. The rankings are based on problems with vehicles in the past year.

Subaru's Wilderness goes one better in the wild

By BARRY SPYKER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The 2022 Subaru Forester Wilderness. SUBARU/TNS

Subaru has gone to great lengths to entice outdoor enthusiasts with its well-touted symmetrical all-wheel-drive, and model names like Forester, Outback and Crosstrek.

But nothing says rugged better than the new Wilderness trim, actually a new sub-brand for Subaru. It's already affixed to the Outback and now joins the Forester lineup for 2022 and beyond. It's more than a rugged appearance package and badges; the compact SUV has greater ground clearance, upgraded suspension and off-road drive modes like deep snow/mud.

It also is equipped with a strengthened tent-ready roof rack that can accommodate 800 pounds of campers and gear when parked. Better to stay off the wet ground and away from whatever lurks in the wilderness.

Approach and departure angles have been increased to 23.5 and 25.4 degrees, respectively, and two skid plates protect the engine and rear differential (aluminum up front, steel in the rear). A set of Yokohama Geolandar all-terrain tires handle the rough trails and choppy ascents. So, yeah, the Wilderness means business.

All Foresters get a styling refresh this year with tweaked grille and LED fog lights, but the Wildnerness gets an exclusive grille. It also adds larger wheel arches with black body cladding to fend off mud and branches, black bumpers front and rear, and a matte-black hood decal to reduce sun glare. Copper-finish accents and badging add a special look and attitude.

All Foresters get power from a 2.4-liter flat four-cylinder engine that puts out 182 horsepower and 176 pound-feet of torque. A CVT (continuously variable transmission) with eight-speed manual shift mode sends power to all four wheels.

The powertrain is less punchy than most rivals. It delivers the SUV to 60 mph in around 8 seconds, which lags against foes from Honda, Toyota, Mazda and Kia. But it's fine for practical daily driving, commutes and such.

The ride is firmer than its brethren in the Subaru lineup but compliant and comfortable enough around town. The off-road tuned suspension subdues the asphalt imperfections, too, and keeps it stable on corners. Steering is accurate and braking is firm.

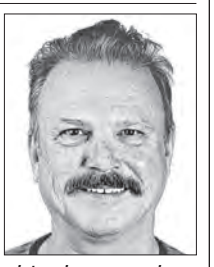
But it really shines on broken dirt and gravel trails, combing over them like a personal watercraft on rippled waters. Forester's dual-function X-Mode applies the proper gearing for conditions: Normal, Snow/Dirt or Deep Snow/Mud modes optimize the traction control and power delivery.

Subaru already has a following with those chasing the rugged terrain, but the Forester Wilderness goes one better: It's more capable, can tow the outdoor toys, and even offers rooftop accommodations at day's ends. When this car's rocking....

NUTS & BOLTS

2022 Subaru Forester Wilderness
MSRP: $32,820
■ As tested: $36,015 (Includes navigation with 8-inch multimedia touchscreen, 9-speaker Harman Kardon premium audio, reverse automatic braking, power rear gate, $1,850; engine skid plate, $220)
■ What's all the excitement about? Wilderness trim gives Forester serious off-road credentials, including multiple drive modes, greater ground clearance, approach and departure angles, plus upgraded suspension and towing capacity
■ Powertrain: 2.5-liter 4-cylinder engine good for 182 hp and 176 lb.-ft. of torque, mated to CVT transmission with 8-speed manual shifters
How's the performance? Not much punch on road, but good handling; 0-60 mph in 8 seconds; More fun and capable on rough trails, ascents and descents
■ Fuel economy: Subaru says 25 mpg city, 28 highway, for 26 combined

MOTORMOUTH: The fine print on car parts



MOTORMOUTH
By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest*. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Q: Recently, I was told by two repair shops that I needed to replace the original catalytic converter on my 2005 Honda Accord coupe. The Honda dealer where I purchased the car recommended a certain shop because a particular mechanic working there might be able to save the old one with welding or using an expander. The dealer said a new OEM cat from him would cost more than the value of the car. Neither repair shop would let me take the old cat. The local scrap yard said it belonged to me and I should insist, but that didn't help. So, you could say there is more than one kind of catalytic converter theft. Why is it OK for the shop to keep the old part that I had paid for?

A: Your parts are yours—anything removed from your vehicle, even the battery. But here is the fine print: a core charge. You have the option to pay the core charge and keep the old part or let the shop keep the component and get its core charge money back. The core charge is like a deposit held for the return of the used part and encourages returning it. Core charges are set by suppliers based on the value of the materials in the part or its reusability. Your shop paid a core charge and then got its money back from its supplier. If you buy and install a battery, the store will charge you $10-20 but you will get it back when you return your old battery.

■■■

Q: I love your subtle and not so subtle humor in many of your replies. Keep up the good work.
I own a Subaru Forester. My wife might soon be the owner of a Subaru Outback. I stopped buying snow tires in 1983 (I think). She showed me an article that made me ponder: My thinking is that most of the suburban roads here (we live in the Chicago suburbs) are salted and that "winter tires" are not necessary. However, my wife does take trips farther west of us, which take her on farm roads where there is sometimes blowing and drifting snow during the winter months. What are your thoughts on winter tires? Should I go back to my 1983 habits? (Maybe I could even buy some parachute pants.

A: I have heard that those baggy bottoms are coming back. Ugh. But winter tires (don't call them snow tires) never went out of style—especially in the snow belt. You may get by fine with all-season tires in the Plains states like Illinois, but winter tires are beneficial there, too. An added benefit is that winter tires help stop the vehicle in a shorter distance than all-season or summer tires.

■■■

Q: We're told there is a proper way to charge cell phones to preserve battery health and longevity (charge when you're at 20%, no overnight charging, etc.) Is the same true of EVs?

A: Yes and no. The batteries life in electric vehicles would suffer the same fate as cell phone batteries. However, the vehicle's computers prevent charging to 100 percent despite what your gauge may say. Ditto for running the charge down to zero. In other words, there is a built-in cushion or buffer to preserve battery life.

Life & Style

Amy Schneider wins a hard-fought 'Jeopardy!' tournament

NEW YORK (AP)—Forty-game winner Amy Schneider capped her big year by winning a hard-fought "Jeopardy!" tournament of champions in an episode that aired Monday.

Schneider, a writer from Oakland, California, won three games in the tournament finals, narrowly beating Andrew He, a software developer from neighboring San Francisco, who won two games. The third contestant, Sam Buttrey, was another Californian who won one game.

Schneider had a 40-game winning streak earlier this year, the second longest in the game show's history,

AP
In this undated photo provided by Jeopardy Productions, Inc., "Jeopardy!" host Ken Jennings, left, poses with contestant Amy Schneider.

which began when she defeated He.

She said she both wanted to compete again with He, known for his cold-blooded big bets on the show's Daily Doubles, and feared him.

"He was definitely someone that I knew could beat me because he very nearly did before, and he did a couple of times here as well," Schneider said. "Any of the three of us really could have won if a very small number of things had gone differently."

Schneider led He by $1,400 going into Final Jeopardy, where the prompt was: "The January 12, 1864 Washington Evening Star reported on a performance of this 'dashing comedy' to 'a full and delighted house.'"

The correct response: "What is 'Our American Cousin?'"

Schneider and He both answered correctly, but Schneider made the bigger bet. She won the $250,000 grand prize, He won $100,000 for second place and Buttrey won $50,000.

On April 14, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln was shot and mortally wounded by John Wilkes Booth during a performance of "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theatre in Washington.

Iger back on top in a Disney plot twist that few saw coming

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Bob Iger, the enterprising entertainment executive who brought Star Wars, Pixar and Marvel under the Disney marquee and challenged the streaming dominance of Netflix, will replace his hand-picked successor, CEO Bob Chapek, whose two-year tenure has been marked by clashes, missteps and a weakening financial performance.

The stunning development comes two weeks after Disney's quarterly financial performance fell well short of Wall Street expectations on both profit and revenue, a rarity, sending shares tumbling 12%.

The company's stock jumped more than 6% Monday, with the appointment of Iger effective immediately. The stock is still down 37% this year.

"It is with an incredible sense of gratitude and humility—and, I must admit, a bit of amazement—that I write to you this evening with the news that I am returning to The Walt Disney Company as Chief Executive Officer," Iger, 71, wrote in an email to employees.

Iger

The tumult atop Disney came quickly with reports that Iger was first approached by board members about a possible return Friday.

Iger separated completely with Disney near the end of last year after remaining onboard for two years as executive chairman, helping to guide Chapek and to guarantee a smooth transition.

That transition was anything but smooth and on Sunday, Iger agreed to a two year contract to redirect Disney's trajectory and to help find a new chief executive.

Iger was Disney's public face for 15 years as chief executive before handing the job off to Chapek in 2020, a stretch in which he compiled a string of victories lauded in the entertainment industry and by Disney fans.

Chapek oversaw Disney during one of the most challenging periods in company history that began with a pandemic and ended, at least under Chapek's rule, with spiraling inflation.

But his time as chief executive was also marked by what many saw as unforced errors for a company that, under Iger, appeared could do no wrong.

Elton John rockets toward retirement at Dodger Stadium

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Forty seven years after he took the stage at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles in a sequined-studded baseball uniform as the world's biggest pop star, Elton John walked on to the same stage on Sunday night wearing a bedazzled Dodgers bathrobe, a uniform more fitting for a 75-year-old man on the verge of retirement.

The crowd of more than 50,000 roared at the moment that came in the final minutes of the final North American concert of a tour John says will be his last.

"I want to spend time with my family because I'll be 76 next year, he said. "I want to bring them out and show you why I'm retiring."

He embraced and kissed his husband, David Furnish, while his two sons, 11-year-old Zachary and 9-year-old Elijah, wearing matching Dodgers jackets that read "Elton" on the back, waved gleefully at the crowd.

John then broke into "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road," the inevitable final song that gave the "Farewell Yellow Brick Road" tour its name.

The crowd full of rocket men and rocket women, of blue jean babieas and LA ladies, many John's age but plenty in their 20s and 30s and 40s, swayed and sang along as they had throughout the two-hour show during songs like "Rocket Man" and "Tiny Dancer." Some wiped away tears.

Many were wearing their own sequins and spangles, sparkling spectacles, top hats, feather boas, and in a few cases, Donald Duck suits, representing stages of John's 55-year career.

"Thank you all for dressing up," John said, "it makes me so happy when you wear the most fantastic costumes."

When that last song ended, John shed the robe and exposed another retirement outfit, a green-and-red tracksuit, and climbed into a small, clear elevator that lifted him into an opening in the backdrop. He could then be seen on a giant video screen walking down a yellow brick road into the distance.

Many others joined John for the occasion.

Kiki Dee took the stage to sing their duet "Don't Go Breaking My Heart."

"In 1975, this woman was here with me, and we sang this song," John said as he brought out Dee. "I asked her to come and recreate that incredible moment."

Woman's second marriage gets the cold shoulder

DEAR ABBY: I left a manipulative and abusive marriage after 18 years. My parents fully supported my decision. When I became engaged to the wonderful man who is now my husband, my mother and many other family members told me that second weddings were "not important" and I should have just gone to the courthouse.

I had a very small wedding. Even my parents didn't get us a gift. Mom wouldn't help with planning, either (my husband and I paid for everything), and said I didn't deserve gifts for a second wedding. All totaled we received five gifts from 50 guests. I didn't expect anything and was grateful for what we got, but the assumption that this marriage wasn't important because it is my second hurt me very much. Am I wrong for being so deeply hurt?

HAPPIER NOW IN THE SOUTH

DEAR HAPPIER: You stated that your first husband was manipulative and abusive. Is that also true about the household in which you were raised? I can understand why you would be hurt and offended by what your mother said. It was cruel, dismissive and unnecessary. In fact, it was so tactless I cannot help but wonder if it was calculated to hurt. If this is typical of her, it may be time to reevaluate your relationship, protect yourself and step back. Remember, your best "revenge" is your happy marriage.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: The other night I had to go to the ER for severe knee pain. After being seen and released, I called my son to come and pick me up. It was 11:30 at night. Neither he nor my daughter-in-law answered the phone! The next day, his wife told me they have full-time jobs. (Both work at the hospital.) My grandson said his mom isn't mad at me, but I feel so hurt. Any advice would be greatly appreciated.

NO RESPONSE IN VIRGINIA

DEAR NO RESPONSE: This unfortunate event should be a lesson for the future. Have a talk with your son and daughter-in-law. The three of you need to come to an understanding about what should happen in the event you have a medical emergency. This includes not only who should provide transportation but also what kind of supervision you might need. You should also have an advance directive in place that includes who should be contacted -- in case you are unable to speak for yourself.

■■■■

DEAR READERS: Tomorrow is Thanksgiving, and no Thanksgiving would be complete without my sharing the traditional prayer penned by my dear late mother:

Oh, Heavenly Father,
We thank Thee for food and remember the hungry.
We thank Thee for health and remember the sick.
We thank Thee for friends and remember the friendless.
We thank Thee for freedom and remember the enslaved.
May these remembrances stir us to service.
That Thy gifts to us may be used for others.
Amen.
Have a happy and safe celebration, everyone!

-- Love, ABBY

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

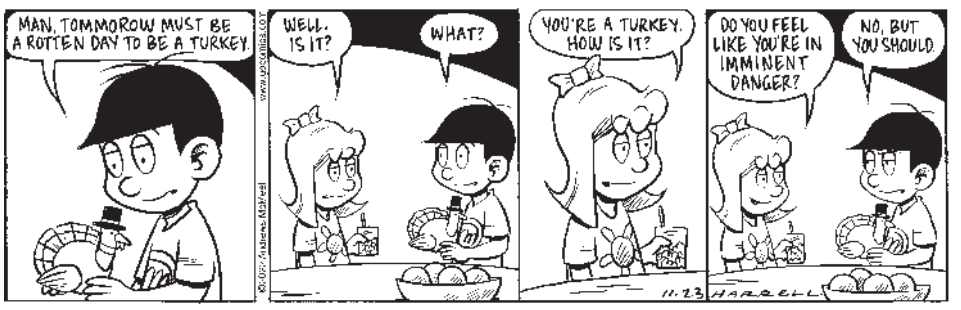
IT WOULD SURE BE A BIG SURPRISE IF THE SCHOOL BUS SPONTANEOUSLY EXPLODED AND I DIDNT HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL!
YEAH, I'D SURE BE SURPRISED IF THAT HAPPENED!
LIFE IS FULL OF SURPRISES, BUT NEVER WHEN YOU NEED ONE.
ARY SCHOOL

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

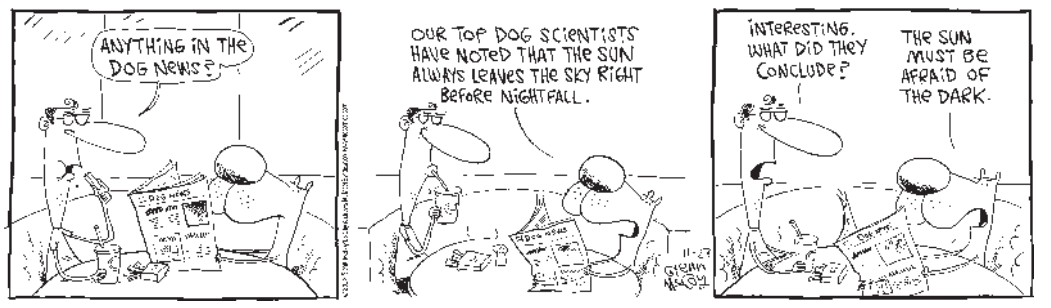
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


MAN, TOMMOROW MUST BE A ROTTEN DAY TO BE A TURKEY.
WELL, IS IT?
WHAT?
YOU'RE A TURKEY. HOW IS IT?
DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE IN IMMINENT DANGER?
NO, BUT YOU SHOULD

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


ANYTHING IN THE DOG NEWS?
OUR TOP DOG SCIENTISTS HAVE NOTED THAT THE SUN ALWAYS LEAVES THE SKY RIGHT BEFORE NIGHTFALL.
INTERESTING. WHAT DID THEY CONCLUDE?
THE SUN MUST BE AFRAID OF THE DARK.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Taunt
5 Pear-shaped fruit
8 Does in, mob-style
12 Elliptical
13 Singer Rawls
14 Bell sound
15 Thanks-giving parade favorites
17 Salinger girl
18 Deep blue
19 Like some limo windows
21 Goof up
22 Disc-shaped cookie
23 Days of yore
26 Comics cry
28 Wear down
31 Feudal laborer
33 Insult, slangily
35 Winter blanket
36 Royal crown
38 Bar bill
40 Cyndi Lauper's "— Bop"
41 Coat with gold
43 Watch chain
45 Restau-rant fan
47 Style
51 Awe-struck
52 Animated films
54 Actress Russo
55 Spanish gold
56 Let fall
57 GI dining hall
58 Cam-paigned
59 Desires

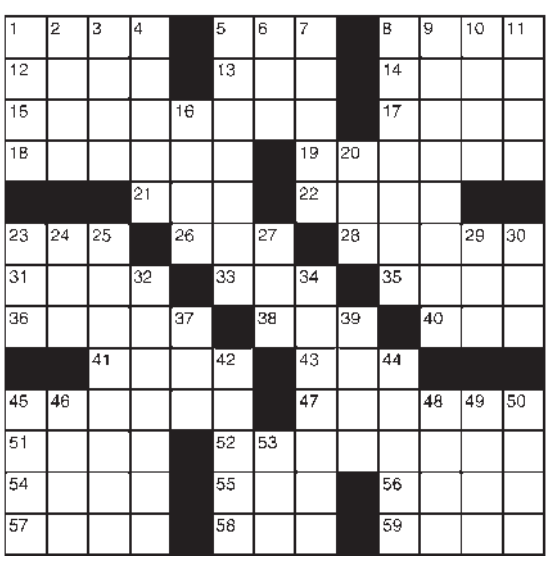
DOWN

1 Asian desert
2 Infamous tsar
3 Hairless
4 "Dallas" matriarch
5 Bowled over
6 Bit of physics
7 Enthusi-asm
8 Starting bids
9 Decks out
10 Notoriety
11 Rosebud, to Kane
16 Shrek, for one
20 Fury
23 Superla-tive suffix
24 Island garland
25 Old foot soldiers
27 Young fox
29 "What was I thinking?"
30 Ram's mate
32 Kitchen fixtures
34 Paella spice
37 Actress MacGraw
39 Cow-boy's footwear
42 Interior design
44 Adrien of "The Pianist"
45 Rural tract
46 Curved molding
48 "Encore!"
49 Soon, poetically
50 Recipe amts.
53 Coach Par-seghian

Solution time: 23 mins.

T	A	L	L	■	R	A	H	■	P	U	F	F
A	L	O	E	■	A	X	E	■	I	S	E	E
P	L	B	O	R	D	E	R	■	P	E	T	S
E	M	S	■	O	I	L	■	M	E	S	A	S
■	■	■	P	R	O	■	B	I	O	■	■	■
B	A	R	R	Y	■	M	A	R	I	E	S	■
T	H	A	I	■	R	O	N	■	G	I	N	A
W	I	N	C	S	A	P	■	W	A	I	S	T
■	■	■	D	O	M	■	B	F	N	■	■	■
C	A	P	O	S	■	P	E	A	■	C	F	C
A	P	O	P	■	P	R	I	N	T	O	U	T
M	E	M	E	■	T	A	G	■	B	A	R	T
E	S	P	N	■	A	M	E	■	A	L	S	O

Yesterday's answer 11-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Miley Cyrus, 30; Salli Richardson-Whitfield, 55; Robin Roberts, 62; Bruce Hornsby, 68.

Happy Birthday: You have options. Look around you and decide what's doable, then head in that direction. Take an unusual path or set up your lifestyle to suit your needs, regardless of how others choose to live. Let excitement drive you, and your skills, intelligence and desire for adventure take you to destinations that open your mind to new possibilities. Your numbers are 9, 14, 21, 25, 34, 36, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Put more faith in yourself and your ability to finish things on time. Step up and engage in putting your skills to the test and outmaneuvering anyone who gets in your way. Nurture relationships, save money and make health a priority. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You will set a new standard and receive praise if you surprise everyone with your ability, technique and insight. Don't question or second-guess what you want to do or say. Turn a chance meeting into a potential partnership. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Taking an active role in whatever you participate in will positively impact how things turn out. Don't trust anyone else to speak or act on your behalf. Avoid conflict and concentrate on finishing what you start. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Choose a path that gives you free rein to use your skills, knowledge and connections the way you see fit. Put a plan in place and partner with people you know you can count on to do what you expect without being coddled. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* You will enjoy mixing and mingling, but beware of people who color situations to persuade you to donate time or money. Ask questions, and don't hesitate to say no if something doesn't feel right. Concentrate on self-improvement and personal growth. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Not everyone will agree with the changes you want to make. Approach opposition with candor and pleasantries, and you'll gain insight into how you can get others to see and do things your way. Protect your home, family and health. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Be ready to act. View situations, consider how to make improvements and implement the changes that feel comfortable. It's up to you to force issues if it will help you get things moving in a positive direction. Personal improvement is favored. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Clear a space at home that will allow you the peace, quiet and functionality required to accomplish your objective. A chance to make extra cash or stretch your budget to fit your needs looks promising. An open discussion will resolve unfinished business. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't get into a scuffle over trivial matters. Know when to give in and let someone else make a suggestion. Weigh the pros and cons, and look at the long-term effects of the decisions you make now. Keep costs down and life simple. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Reach out and offer help where needed. There is power in being present and acting on behalf of those who can't fend for themselves. Look for an outlet geared toward humanitarian causes instead of the almighty dollar. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Use intelligence to make a point, not emotions. How you handle others and approach controversial subjects will make a difference in the outcome. Hone your negotiating skills and use honesty and innovative concepts to bring about positive change. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Complete your to-do list, lower your stress level and move on to an activity that puts a smile on your face. Knowing when to work and when to relax will help you maintain balance and good health. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intriguing, courageous and insightful. You are ambitious and kind.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			8	6				
			3		5	4		
				2	7			
8	7	2			9	3		
9			4			7	6	
	3			8	1	9		5
	1							6
		8						2
			5	1	3	8	9	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	7	5	3	6	2	4	1	9
3	9	4	7	8	1	5	6	2
1	6	2	5	4	9	7	8	3
2	3	9	8	7	5	6	4	1
7	4	6	1	9	3	8	2	5
5	8	1	6	2	4	3	9	7
4	1	7	2	3	6	9	5	8
6	2	3	9	5	8	1	7	4
9	5	8	4	1	7	2	3	6

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

LORETTA LYNN (1932-2022) Solution: 13 letters

C	Y	H	O	C	I	S	U	M	N	J	A	C	K	C
O	O	T	E	P	O	C	S	R	E	T	N	I	L	K
N	E	A	I	W	Y	L	S	M	U	B	L	A	A	T
W	E	O	L	C	O	D	U	E	T	R	R	N	W	Y
A	S	K	E	I	T	M	G	M	E	A	Y	F	N	A
Y	S	J	G	S	I	S	A	T	B	W	S	U	O	W
D	E	A	E	S	C	L	I	N	E	I	T	L	C	E
O	N	Y	N	Y	E	R	B	F	R	N	A	L	I	H
O	N	L	D	R	W	E	Y	G	G	E	P	C	S	T
L	E	E	N	G	T	R	A	T	I	U	G	I	N	N
I	T	E	N	T	T	Q	S	I	N	A	T	R	A	O
T	S	O	Y	N	U	L	A	T	S	Y	R	C	M	S
T	S	S	U	E	E	R	F	A	N	S	L	L	Y	E
L	U	O	E	R	B	O	B	S	T	A	V	E	R	N
E	C	N	E	U	L	F	N	I	R	E	V	I	L	O

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Albums, Betty Sue, Bob's Tavern, Cissy, Clara, Cline, Coal, Columbia, Conway, Country, Crystal, Doolittle, Duet, Ernest, Fans, Fist City, Free, Full Circle, Guitar, Influence, Interscope, Jack, Jay Lee, Legend, Music, Oliver, One's on the Way, Patsy, Peggy, Queen, Ryman's Icon Walk, Sinatra, Songwriter, Tennessee, Tour, Wine, Woman

Yesterday's Answer: Morning

Purchase the NEW **Treasury 50** in time for the holidays at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Saka, Rashford help England rout Iran 6-2 at World Cup

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — When Bukayo Saka and Marcus Rashford last walked off the field at a major international soccer tournament, they were bombarded with racist abuse.

Three goals for England in the team's opening match at this year's World Cup was their immediate riposte.

Saka scored two before giving way to Rashford, who added another in the second half of England's 6-2 rout of Iran on Monday.

The jubilant scene at the Khalifa International Stadium was in contrast to the tears shed following England's penalty shootout loss to Italy in last year's European Championship final. Saka and Rashford both failed to convert from the spot and were targeted on social media.

"It is a moment that has been with me and will be with me forever," said Saka, who was only 19 during Euro 2020. "But I am so blessed and so grateful to have the coaching staff, not only here with the team at England, but also at Arsenal.

"My friends and my family put their arm around me along with my teammates and the nation supported me to help me get back to a good place. I feel that love from everyone around me."

The win also provides encouragement for coach Gareth Southgate, who has faced the most troubled period of his England tenure over the last year. In a difficult buildup to the tournament in Qatar, he was booed after a 4-0 loss to Hungary in June and was humiliated by his own fans when they chanted, "You don't know what you're doing."

Hundreds of fans missed the start of Monday's match because of an issue with digital tickets. When they eventually made their way to their seats, they witnessed an utterly dominant display from England.

Jude Bellingham's first international goal opened the scoring in the 35th minute.

Saka then got his first of the match in the 43rd and Raheem Sterling added another in first-half stoppage time. Saka scored his second shortly after the hour, but Mehdi Taremi pulled one back for Iran in the 65th minute.

Rashford struck six minutes later to extend England's lead to 5-1, and Jack Grealish also stepped off the bench to score a sixth in the 90th. Taremi added another for Iran from the penalty spot deep in stoppage time after John Stones was penalized for holding Morteza Pouraliganji's shirt in the box.

The game was delayed for several minutes in the first half when Iran goalkeeper Ali Beiranvand clashed heads with a teammate. He was eventually taken off the field on a stretcher with the score still 0-0.

His replacement, Hossein Hosseini, was left with the unenviable task of facing England's potent attack.

The match had a total of 29 minutes of stoppage time, 15 minutes in the first half and 14 in the second.

After the match, Iran coach Carlos Queiroz pleaded with fans to support the team following apparent boos during the national anthem amid protests in the nation for women's rights.

"All the Iranians in the stadium are welcome, and feel free to criticize," he said. "Those who come to disturb the team with issues that are not only about football opinions are not welcome. They are just simple football boys. They have one dream, to play football. It is not their fault that the World Cup happens at the moment. The moral is: Let the kids play the game. They want to represent the country, represent the people."

Bellingham had not even made his senior debut by the time of the last World Cup in 2018. Now the Borussia Dortmund midfielder is one of the most coveted players in the Europe and is expected to spark a major transfer battle at the end of the season. Monday's performance is likely to see his reputation grow even more.

Southgate said Harry Kane was not injured despite concerns when he went down under a challenge in the second half and was later substituted.

"I think Harry is fine," the coach said. "It looked a bad tackle, but he carried on and we took him off because we thought it was a moment when we could do that."

AP

England's Bukayo Saka , right, celebrates with teammates after scoring his side's fourth goal against Iran during the World Cup group B soccer match between England and Iran at the Khalifa International Stadium, in Doha, Qatar, Monday, Nov. 21, 2022.

Netherlands 2, Senegal 0

In Doha, Qatar, Louis van Gaal's gambles at both ends of the field paid off for the Netherlands.

Up front, Memphis Depay returned from injury as a second-half substitute to help spark the attack into life as the Netherlands scored two late goals to beat Senegal 2-0 Monday at the World Cup.

At the back, Netherlands goalkeeper Andries Noppert pulled off three key saves to keep the African champions at bay after Van Gaal decided to give him his international debut in a key World Cup game and just two months after he was called into the national squad for the first time.

"His quality is he can stop balls and he did that three times today," the Netherlands coach said, "and he did it perfectly."

Cody Gakpo and substitute Davy Klaasen provided the late goals to ensure the Dutch team's winning start at its first World Cup appearance since 2014, when Van Gaal was also coach.

Gakpo rose to glance a header in from a cross by Frenkie de Jong in the 84th minute with the team's first effort on target. Klaasen added a second right at the end of eight minutes of stoppage time by slotting in after Senegal goalkeeper Edouard Mendy only weakly blocked a shot from Depay.

The orange-shirted Dutch fans had been subdued until the late strikes as Senegal was the more energetic team. The Senegalese drums and chants were the dominant sound from the stands for much of the game.

But Senegal's main problem was predictable: Without injured forward Sadio Mane, it couldn't convert any of its chances.

"I think we gave everything and I think we deserved at least a point from this game," Senegal coach Aliou Cisse said. "But, of course, Sadio being missing is a problem for us."

Depay, who has only just recovered from a hamstring injury, was put on by Van Gaal with about 30 minutes to go after the veteran coach said the day before that he wasn't sure if the Barcelona forward was ready for action.

He decided to see if he was and Depay responded by playing parts in both goals.

First, he linked up with De Jong near the edge of the area before the midfielder crossed to Gakpo for the first goal. Depay's run and shot deep in injury time led to the second goal for Klaasen — one of four substitutes in the match. It sealed a Dutch victory and a 16th game unbeaten for the Netherlands since the 71-year-old Van Gaal, the oldest coach at the World Cup, returned from retirement last year to lead his country for a third time.

The substitutions provided "the breakthrough," Van Gaal said. "Memphis was a big part of that."

USA 1, Wales 1

In Al Rayyan, Qatar, a young United States team was nearing victory in its World Cup return. Then Walker Zimmerman needlessly plowed into Gareth Bale.

Bale converted the resulting penalty kick in the 82nd minute, giving Wales a 1-1 draw Monday night that left the Americans feeling frustrated and made their path to the knockout stage more precarious.

"You feel like you have the game and you're going to win the game," midfielder Brenden Aaronson said. "It's a punch in the face."

Tim Weah put the Americans ahead in the 36th minute off a pass from Christian Pulisic, scoring in front a crowd that included his father, former FIFA Player of the Year and current Liberia President George Weah.

Back in the World Cup after missing the 2018 tournament, the United States had only to close out the final minutes. But Brennan Johnson made a throw-in that Aaron Ramsey cut back to Bale, who had his back to the goal near the penalty spot. Zimmerman's sliding tackle took out Bale's left leg, and Qatari referee Abdulrahman Al-Jassim pointed to the penalty spot.

"He probably just puts his leg not for the ball but to try and get in the way of me hitting the ball," Zimmerman said. "So I kind of went through him and I think I still got the ball. But clever move — I wish I would have seen him out of the corner my eye."

Shooting in front of the Red Wall of supporters, Bale sent his kick past goalkeeper Matt Turner for his 41st goal in 109 international appearances, salvaging a point for Wales in its first World Cup match since 1958.

"Obviously, a difficult game," Bale said. "First half was not how we wanted to play and the United States played really well. We played quite poorly."

Next up for the United States is a high-profile matchup Friday against England, which opened with a 6-2 rout of Iran. Wales faces the Iranians.

The top two teams advance.

"It think it's pretty clear — a disappointing result for us," Turner said.

Weah, just 22, was part of a new-look American team that is the tournament's second-youngest.

Yunus Musah, at 19 years, 358 days the youngest American to start a Cup match, started the move to Weah's goal when he headed the ball to Josh Sargent at the midfield stripe. Sargent dished off to Pulisic, who burst up the middle of the field. On his fourth touch Pulisic rolled the ball ahead to Weah, who timed his run perfectly to break in ahead of Neco Williams.

From near the penalty spot, Weah used the side of his right foot to poke the ball over the left thigh of sliding goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey for his fourth goal in 26 international appearances.

"It's a dream come true for every attacker, for every player to score in a World Cup," Weah said, "and I did that tonight in front of my fans, my teammates, my family."

In the 750th international U.S. match, the Americans started a U.S. Cup record 10 players from European clubs, with only Zimmerman from Major League Soccer. DeAndre Yedlin, who entered in the 74th minute, was the only American with previous World Cup experience.

Sargent nearly put the Americans ahead in the 10th minute when he hit a post with a header from Antonee Robinson's cross.

After the U.S. dominated the first half with 66% possession, Wales switched to a three-man attack and had 67% in the first 15 minutes of the second. Ben Davies' header in the 64th minute was pushed over the crossbar by a leaping Turner.

The match was played in the Arabian desert west of Doha at rebuilt Ahmad bin Ali Stadium, lit in brilliant colors and featuring an exterior facade meant to replicate undulating sand dunes. The U.S. Soccer Federation sold about 3,300 tickets, and Secretary of State Anthony Blinken was on hand in the crowd of 43,418.

"The nerves were there," Pulisic said. "Now we have to figure out how to put that together for 90 minutes."

Garoppolo throws for 4 TDs, 49ers top Cards in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY (AP)—As the final minute ticked off the clock, San Francisco quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo turned toward the crowd at Estadio Azteca, lifted his hands over his head and started clapping.

It was clear that the Mexico City crowd loved the 49ers.

Jimmy G and the 49ers gave that love — and some really good football — right back.

Garoppolo threw four touchdown passes, including two each to Brandon Aiyuk and George Kittle, and the 49ers won their third straight game by blowing past the Arizona Cardinals 38-10 on Monday night in Mexico City.

"The whole atmosphere tonight, I haven't played in anything like it," Garoppolo said. "It was electric, the fans were nuts, they were cheering throughout the whole game. It seemed like a soccer game at some points, just the passion they brought. It was really cool. I'd love to do it again."

It was the fifth regular-season NFL game played in Mexico City and first since 2019. Technically a Cardinals home game, the festive, raucous announced crowd of 78,427 fans heavily favored the 49ers, roaring particularly loud when Kittle and Deebo Samuel each scored on 39-yard touchdowns.

"Man, I love San Francisco, but if we can't be there, I love to be here," 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said. "This place is awesome. That was one of the coolest experiences I've been a part of."

San Francisco (6-4) has won five of its last seven and is tied with the Seahawks at the top of the NFC West. Garoppolo had another efficient performance, completing 20 of 29 passes for 228 yards.

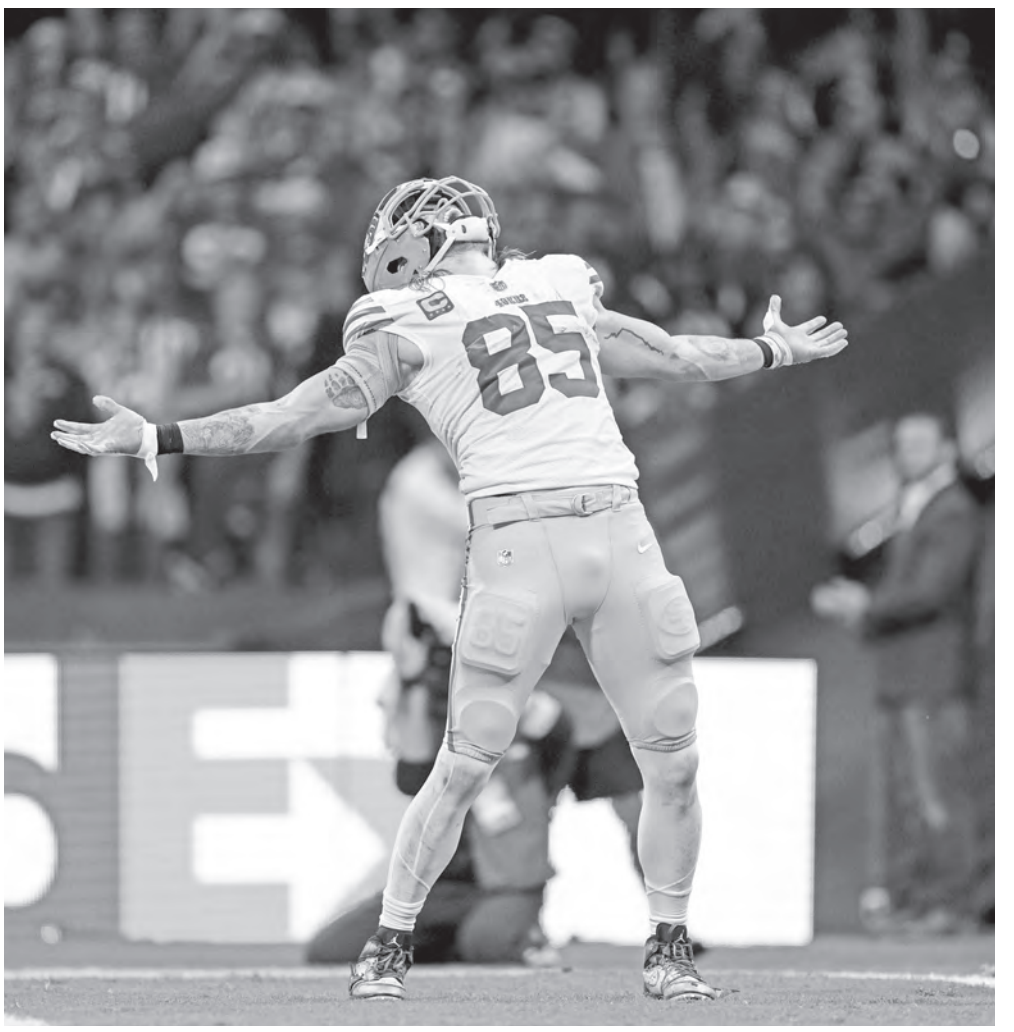
It was a tight game through much of the first half, but the 49ers pulled away in the second half, jumping ahead 24-10 early in the third quarter on a nifty end-around play. Samuel took the pitch and sprinted 39 yards, weaving through the Cardinals defense on his way to the end zone.

"It was really one of those pick your poison type of nights," Garoppolo said. "They tried to take away the run, so we passed it, and then vice versa. It was a good night."

It capped a powerful eight-play San Francisco drive that included seven run plays. Aiyuk's second touchdown catch of the night — this one from 14 yards out — put the 49ers up 31-10 later in the third.

"I hope we made a good impression," 49ers defensive end Joey Bosa said.

The Cardinals (4-7) played their second straight game without Pro Bowl quarterback Kyler Murray, who has been battling a sore hamstring. Backup Colt McCoy had a 3-1 record in spot starts over the past two seasons — including a win over the Rams last week — but couldn't recreate the same magic in Mexico.



AP

San Francisco 49ers tight end George Kittle celebrates after scoring a touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game against the Arizona Cardinals, Monday, Nov. 21, 2022, in Mexico City.

McCoy finished 24 of 34 passing for 218 yards and an interception. The 49ers hit him hard multiple times, connecting for three sacks.

"It's just a bummer we didn't find a way to win that game," McCoy said. "But San Francisco played hard. They're a good football team, and we just didn't make enough plays. But for the crowd, for the atmosphere, being able to play internationally in Mexico City, I thought it was fantastic."

The 49ers took a 17-10 into the halftime break after Robbie Gould connected on a 39-yard field goal with 43 seconds remaining the second quarter. It capped a back-and-forth first half that saw the teams gain almost identical amounts of yardage: The 49ers had a 186-185 advantage.

The Cardinals pushed ahead 3-0 midway through the first quarter on Matt Prater's 40-yard field goal as both teams dealt with a steady rain that started around kickoff and continued through much of the first half.

The 49ers responded early in the second when Garoppolo hit Aiyuk over the middle for a 7-yard touchdown, capping a nine-play, 82-yard drive. San Francisco intercepted McCoy on the ensuing drive after a pass bounced off James Conner's hand and was snatched out of the air by Jimmie Ward.

San Francisco capitalized three plays later when Garoppolo evaded pressure and lofted a pass to Kittle, who juked two Arizona defenders and then cruised into the end zone for a 39-yard touchdown and a 14-3 lead.

The cavernous Estadio Azteca — which is home to two of Mexico's top soccer teams — sits at an altitude of about 7,200 feet, which is much higher than both San Francisco and Phoenix. The 49ers opted to train at altitude this week in Colorado, while the Cardinals decided to stay at their home practice facility in Tempe, Arizona.

Arizona's defense looked gassed in the second half, missing several tackles as the game slowly got out of hand.

"That was a really good team," Cardinals coach Kliff Kingsbury said. "We knew we had to play as good as we've played all year. And I thought they played really physical in that second half and found a way to make plays."

DeRozan helps Bulls halt Celtics' 9-game winning streak

CHICAGO (AP)—DeMar DeRozan scored 28 points, Zach LaVine added 22 and the Chicago Bulls stopped Boston's nine-game win streak, beating the Celtics 121-107 on Monday night.

Patrick Williams scored a season-high 17, and the Bulls made it look rather easy against the team with the NBA's best record. They led by 13 at halftime, got it up to 21 in the third quarter and withstood a push to come away with the victory after dropping four straight and five of six.

Jayson Tatum led Boston with 28 points. Jaylen Brown scored 25 and Malcolm Brogdon finished with 23 points, shooting 5 of 6 on 3-pointers.

Pelicans 128, Warriors 83

In New Orleans, Brandon Ingram scored a season-high 34 points on the night Zion Williamson returned from a three-game absence, and New Orleans routed depleted Golden State.

Playing one night after winning on the road for the first time this season at Houston, the Warriors scratched Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson, Draymond Green and Andrew Wiggins from the lineup.

Williamson played 23 minutes in his first game back from a bruised right foot, scoring nine points.

Devonte Graham had 19 for the Pelicans, who took the lead for good less than two minutes into the game and led by as many as 45. Jonas Valanciunas had 10 points and 13 rebounds.

Jordan Poole scored 26 for Golden State, which fell to 1-9 on the road.

Bucks 119, Trail Blazers 111

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 37 points and Milwaukee pulled away in the second half to beat Portland.

Antetokounmpo shot 16 of 24 to go with seven rebounds and six assists in 35 minutes. Milwaukee improved to 12-4 overall and 9-1 at home.

Bucks guard Jrue Holiday scored 13 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter, and Grayson Allen added 17 points and eight rebounds. Holiday had the first nine Milwaukee points in the period.

Anfernee Simons paced the Trail Blazers (10-7) with 29 points. Jusuf Nurkic added 16 points and 10 rebounds, but Portland lost its third straight game.

Clippers 121, Jazz 114

In Los Angeles, Norman Powell scored a season-high 30 points, Reggie Jackson added a season-best 27 and Los Angeles rallied in the fourth quarter to defeat Utah.

Ivica Zubac had 14 points and 14 rebounds as the Clippers extended their winning streak to three.

Los Angeles was without Paul George after he strained his right hamstring during Saturday's win over San Antonio.

Jordan Clarkson led Utah with 26 points and Lauri Markkanen had 25 points and 10 rebounds. The Jazz have dropped four of their last six after starting the season 10-3.

Cavaliers 114, Hawks 102

In Cleveland, Donovan Mitchell had 29 points and nine assists, and Darius Garland scored 26 to send Cleveland past Atlanta in their first meeting since the play-in tournament last season.

Trae Young had 25 points and 10 assists, and Onyeka Okongwu had a season-high 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Hawks. Key offseason acquisition Dejounte Murray scored 11 on 4-of-18 shooting.

Atlanta claimed the final playoff berth in the East with a 107-101 win at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse on April 15, extending Cleveland's postseason drought to four years. The Cavaliers have not made the playoffs without LeBron James since 1998.

Garland also had nine assists and tied his career high with eight turnovers. Cedi Osman scored a season-best 23 off the bench as Cleveland won its third in a row following a five-game losing streak. The Cavaliers are 7-1 at home.

Pacers 123, Magic 102

In Indianapolis, Bennedict Mathurin scored 22 points and Indiana blew out Orlando for its fifth consecutive victory.

Tyrese Haliburton had 18 points and 14 assists for the Pacers. T.J. McConnell added 19 points and 10 assists. Oshae Brissett scored 18 as Indiana's bench accounted for 71 points.

Franz Wagner led the Magic with 20 points and Gary Harris had 18.

Timberwolves 105, Heat 101

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns had 25 points and Anthony Edwards scored 10 of his 22 in the third quarter as Minnesota outlasted shorthanded Miami.

Down to eight players due to injuries and rest on the second night of a back-to-back, the Heat led by 15 in the first half before Edwards sparked a third-quarter run.

Jaden McDaniels added 18 points for the Timberwolves, who won their fourth straight.

Kyle Lowry led the Heat with 21 points and Max Strus had 19. Bam Adebayo, playing in back-to-back games while dealing with a knee injury, had 17 points and 14 rebounds for Miami, which has lost four in a row.

Jimmy Butler missed his third straight game with a knee injury for the Heat, who were also without Tyler Herro, Duncan Robinson and Gabe Vincent.

Knicks 129, Thunder 119

In Oklahoma City, Jalen Brunson had a season-high 34 points while RJ Barrett and Julius Randle scored 25 each to lead New York over Oklahoma City.

Just eight days ago, the Thunder beat the Knicks in Madison Square Garden, scoring 145 points — including 79 in the opening half. But this time, New York held Oklahoma City's offense in check for the bulk of the game.

Randle also pulled down 11 rebounds. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander led the Thunder with 30 points and Lu Dort added 24.

3 schools undefeated in co-ed ES hoops

By LEIGH GASES
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Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School 1, William S. Reyes Elementary School 1, and Tinian Elementary School are all undefeated in the IT&E Interscholastic Co-ed Elementary School Basketball League 2022-2023 played at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

GTC 1 is currently at 5-0, while WSR 1 and TES are both with 4-0 win-loss records.

All three schools lead their pools and have earned their spot in the playoffs starting on Dec. 1.

GTC 1 notched their fifth win last Saturday after slipping past WSR 2 in a close game, 18-17, while WSR 1 came out unscathed for their fourth win against Koblerville Elementary School 1, 20-16.

Damian Marchadesch led the GTC Deer almost singlehandedly with an 11-point run—shooting alone in the first period as their team trailed behind by 4 points. Then in the second period, teammates Siah Casil chimed in a free throw, while Ethan Borja punctured the hoop for 6 points, with his last 2 points the marginal basket against WSR 2.

The Kingfishers blew their lead from the first period as GTC found their rhythm and stride at the hoop, with WSR 2's leading shooter Aldric Antonio swishing in 5 points, but it wasn't enough to make a recovery against the Deer's hook, line, and sinkers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

San Vicente Elementary School 1's Scott Pangelinan, left, dribbles away from Garapan Elementary School 1's James Nolasco during their game in the co-ed elementary division of the IT&E Interscholastic Basketball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

In the WSR 1 game against KobES, Joshua Lizama led the high-flying Kingfishers to victory with 12 points. Ha'anisha Taitano swished the net for 6 points, while Zowie Deleon Guerrero knocked in 2.

The Umangs' top scorers were Logan Daniel with 6 points, Napu Pangelinan with 5, and Eric Palacios Jr. with 4, but the Umangs came to a crawl toward the end of the game as they could not put up any more points against the swift and speedy Kingfishers.

In other results that day, San Vicente Elementary School 1 stopped Garapan Elementary School 1, 16-2; GTC 2 blanked Saipan International School, 14-0; and KobES 2 held back SIS 2, 32-9.

In the standings behind WSR 1 in Pool A are GES 2 with a 3-1 card, KobES 1 at 2-2, and GTC 2, 1-3. In Pool B behind GTC 1 are KobES 2 at 4-1, WSR 2 at 3-2, and GES 1, SVS 1, and SIS 2 with 1-4 records. In Pool C behind Tinian are KagES with a 3-1 record, Grace Christian Academy at 2-2, Brilliant Star School at 1-3, while Sinapalo Elementary School have yet to win with four losses.

In the playoffs on Dec. 1, GCA will face off with WSR 2, KobES 1 will do battle against GTC 2, KobES 2 will challenge GES 1, KagES will be against BSS. Then, GTC 1 will square off against the winner of the GCA vs WSR 2, and WSR 1 will take on the winner of KobES 1 vs. GTC 2.

The championship tournament is set for Dec. 3.

The IT&E Interscholastic Co-ed Elementary School Basketball League 2022-2023 season is being organized by the Public School System Athletic Program with help from the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation.

GTC 1 18 – Damian Marchadesch 11, Borja 6, Casil 1.

WSR 2 17 – Antonio 5, Borja, Elaisar, Olaitaman, Montanio 2,

Scoring by halves: 6-10, 18-17.

WSR 1 20 – Lizama 12, Taitano 6, Deleon Guerrero 2.

KobES 1 16 – Daniel 6, Pangelinan 5, Palacios Jr. 4, Mallens 1,

Scoring by halves: 10-6, 20-16.

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Tyquiengco.

The team manager is Joey Dela Cruz with coaches Manny Sablan, Mike Cruz, Jeremiah Suel, and John Peter Sablan.

"I'm really excited for my team—we have a lot to prove. It's been four years since we've really stepped on the field and we really have a lot to show. I know everyone's been doubting us lately, taking the CNMI out of the picture for baseball, but the last [Pacific] Mini Games when the CNMI brought home gold, that really inspired everyone, and honestly, it really did bring back baseball to the island. We're gonna go out there and give it our best. I believe in my team and I believe that every one of them has earned their spot on this team and we're all deserving, but we're going to work for it" said McDonald in an interview last Friday before their scrimmage.

With the final roster set, the boys are now competing for the nine starting positions that will be primarily used in New Zealand as the WBSC format doesn't mandate a must-play rule.

Team manager Dela Cruz said about the team, "We've definitely progressed since August and each of the boys have grown both as a player and as a person. We are working with the boys with four days a week of practice (at times five) and allow the other days for rest, rehab, and to ensure all school work are completed and submitted. I constantly remind the boys of balancing baseball, schoolwork, and everything else that comes with being a student-athlete. We are also working hard to prepare the team on all aspects of the game from offense, defense, strength and conditioning, and mental approach. These guys are a bunch of committed young men and they're working really hard given the short amount of time. They've built a brotherhood and I'm looking forward to seeing them compete and represent the CNMI in New Zealand next month."

"For me personally, I would like to thank Jay Santos, the president of Saipan Baseball League, Herman Kintol, director of player development, and the board for the coordination and preparation to get us to New Zealand. Additionally, we like to thank SBL for allowing us to utilize the equipment that was purchased during the [Pacific] Mini Games. I would also like to recognize and thank Jerry Tan and [the Northern Marianas Sports Association] for allowing us to utilize the field, the lights and for coordinating with the Saipan Mayor's Office to cut the grass on a weekly basis. And most importantly, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the 2022 Pacific Mini Games baseball team for winning gold and bringing baseball back to our islands. This is huge for NMI Baseball and our community in general, " Dela Cruz added.

The NMI U18 team will face Australia, New Zealand, Guam, and Palau in the qualifiers next month.

Both McDonald and Dela Cruz understand that the teams they will be facing in this tournament will be tough as they've been playing year-round baseball and have advanced baseball programs but "they will try and give it their best."

But despite being the underdogs, "we look forward to bringing this team out, getting all the experience and exposure they can get, but also to go and compete with class—to be ambassadors of the game and to represent not only baseball, but also the NMI," Dela Cruz ended on a positive note.

The SBL will be using the 2022 Oceania World Baseball and Softball Confederation U18 Tournament as a springboard to further develop youth baseball in the CNMI.

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cific; tournament director Edward Manibusan, who is the owner of Saipan Surf Company; and beach marshal David Cabrera, owner of the local shop Local Bones.

Surf's up from 10am to 2pm, with eight different heats of 30 minutes each for all 16 competitors. Each competitor will have the chance to go twice.

On Day 1, there will be four heats in the morning and four heats in the afternoon. On Day 2, the Top 8 scores will boogie it down in the semifinals in the morning, which will then narrow it down to the Top 4 for the finals in the afternoon.

Points will be based on the following major elements: choice of wave, commitment and degree of difficulty, combination of major maneuvers, minimum rides scored of 3, and maximum rides scored of 5.

The judges for the event are Joe Guerrero, Eddie Johnson, and Antonette Labausa.

Also discussed in the orientation is the clothing and equipment rules, safety measures and etiquette, and code of conduct.

Takanobu, a 40-year-old surfer who has been surfing since middle school said, "Since I started, I've been dreaming of an event that will pop up one day. This is it. So, I'm really stoked about this event and I'm really surprised that all the guys put it together to try and make a really successful event for all the competitors and whoever is going to be out here in Obyan. For safety, pretty much I know the ins and outs of this water, the style, the current and how the direction you should go after every wave you catch. You should avoid the braking zone and just go further in the wings of the waves. It's the safest beach to swim and do any of those watersports."

James Lee, a sponsor of the event from MarPac and Kona Brewing, said, "we're definitely excited to sponsor this first annual bodyboard event. Knowing these guys, they really put a lot of heart into it and we definitely have that [community] with watersports."

Manibusan reiterated the importance of safety after the orientation, saying "thank you to the [Department of Public Safety] Boating Safety and [Department of Fire and Medical Services] because they're giving us their patrol boat, they're going to have jet skis here."

"There's actually a very good and growing surfing community out here. I'm really happy and so proud of these 16 guys that decided to come out here and join this competition," aded Manibusan.

Cabrera said with the competition less than a month away, "we've come a long way and the reception from the surf community has been amazing. Everybody's super excited to finally have an event where we celebrate the surf community."

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junior varsity team defeated DMS, 21-14, 21-10; FMS junior varsity trounced HSM junior varsity after three nail-biting sets, 14-21, 21-17, 15-13, while FMS varsity team swooped in for the win after three sets as well against COVMS, 13-21, 21-7, 15-11.

In the standings behind the Geckos, Hilitais, Tatagas, and Eagles, are FMS with a 1-2 card, DMS with 1-1, while MCS, SCS, and COVMS, are at 0-3. Tinian Jr. High School and Rota Jr. High School has yet to make an appearance.

Saka, Rashford help England rout Iran 6-2 at World Cup

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3 schools undefeated in co-ed ES hoops

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18 named to CNMI baseball team to NZ

LEIGH GASES

Eighteen players have made the final cut for the CNMI U18 Junior National Baseball Team that will compete in New Zealand for the World Baseball Softball Confederation Oceania qualifying tournament from Dec. 12 to 15.

By LEIGH GASES
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The CNMI U18 Junior National Baseball Team that will compete in the World Baseball Softball Confederation Oceania qualifying tournament from Dec. 12 to 15 in New Zealand has been named.

The final roster of 18 players were chosen out of a pool of 40 prospective players over a series of tryouts that were held since August.

The final cut was made last Nov. 12 with 17 year-old Charles McDonald III from Saipan International School chosen as the team captain. Co-captains are Angelo Igitol and Jeremiah Suel III. The rest of the team includes Noah Aguon, Joell Borja, Justin Camacho, Joey DelaCruz Jr., Joel Deleon Guerrero, Derrence Diaz, Jon Diaz, Achilles Evangelista, Christopher Gonzales, Andre Iguel, Keahie Omapas, Benjamin Palacios, Jylon Sablan, Michael Tomokane, and Jesus

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16 to boogie it down at Obyan

LEIGH GASES

Sixteen surfers took part in the orientation for the first Boogie Down at Obyan surf contest held last Saturday.

By LEIGH G`ASES
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Sixteen of the CNMI's best surfers will all mosey down to Obyan Beach on Dec. 11 and Dec. 12 after event organizers of the first Boogie Down at Saipan surf contest held an orientation and announced the competitors last Saturday afternoon at Obyan Beach.

In the orientation, the 16 surfers in attendance were Michael Johnson, Herman Guerrero, Joey Tudela, Austin Benavente, Jacob Yamagishi, Masaki Kitami, Abbas Shakir, Frank Ramon, Ian Fleming, Maverick Itibus, Tony Atalig, Sidney Camacho, Solomon Castro, Shuji Takanobu, Vincent Villagomez, and J.R. Villagomez.

The organizing committee of Boogie Down at Obyan led the orientation which included venue director Joe Villacrusis, co-owner of Salty Skin Pa-

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4 schools undefeated in girls MS v-ball

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Saipan International School and Hopwood Middle School's varsity teams both lead the girls NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Middle School Volleyball League 2022-2023 season with 3-0 records, while both Tanapag Middle School varsity and its junior varsity and Grace Christian Academy varsity are undefeated in two games, with all games played at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

In their most recent conquest, the Geckos defeated Saipan Community School in two swift sets, 21-3, 21-8 last Thursday; last Tuesday, they beat Mount Carmel School, also in two sets, 21-6, 21-17; in the season opener, the Geckos outscored ChaCha Oceanview Middle School in two tough sets, 21-12, 21-10.

Meanwhile, HMS Hilitais mirrored the wins of the Geckos after defeating Mount Carmel School. 21-13, 21-14, defeating COVMS 21-7, 21-11, and beating Francisco M. Sablan Middle School 21-7, 21-17.

As for the TMS Tatagas varsity team, they are 2-0 after defeating DanDan Middle School last Thursday in two sets, 23-21, 21-14, and overpowering SCS in two sets in the season opener, 21-10, 21-4.

The TMS junior varsity team are also on a hot streak as they triumphed over SIS junior varsity, 21-18, 21-12, and beating FMS junior varsity, 21-11, 21-14.

The GCA Eagles varsity team, on the other hand, are undefeated after they won over SCS last Tuesday, 21-3, 21-8, and over MCS in the season opener, 21-16, 21-7.

In other results from last Thursday's games, the GCA

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tanapag Middle School girls volleyball varsity team, in orange, is undefeated with two wins so far in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Middle School Volleyball League.